UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/546
23 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 74

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 B)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 B of 9 December 1991, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"2. Condemns once again the failure of Israel, the occupying Power, to acknowledge the applicability of the Convention to the territories it has occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"3. Strongly demands that Israel accept the de jure applicability of the Convention and comply with its provisions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"4. Urgently calls upon all States parties to the Convention to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for and compliance with its provisions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 3 July 1992, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 C)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 C of 9 December 1991, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Determines that all such measures and actions taken by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967 are in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, constitute a serious obstacle to the efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East and therefore have no legal validity;

"2. Strongly deplores the persistence of Israel in carrying out such measures, in particular the establishment of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"3. Demands that Israel comply strictly with its international obligations in accordance with the principles of international law and the provisions of the said Convention;

"4. Demands once more that Israel, the occupying Power, desist forthwith from taking any action that would result in changing the legal status, geographical nature or demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"5. Urgently calls upon all States parties to the Convention to respect and to exert all efforts in order to ensure respect for and compliance with its provisions in all occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 3 July 1992, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

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Distr.
GENERAL

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 D)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 D of 9 December 1991, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Deplores the arbitrary detention or imprisonment by Israel of thousands of Palestinians as a result of their resistance to occupation in order to attain self-determination;
>
> "2. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to release all Palestinians and other Arabs arbitrarily detained or imprisoned;
>
> "3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible but not later than the beginning of its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 3 July 1992, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

92-52193 3678d (E) 041192 *051192*

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/549
23 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 74

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Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 E)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 E of 9 December 1991, the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Strongly deplores the continuing disregard by Israel, the occupying Power, of the relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council and resolutions of the General Assembly;
>
> "2. Demands that the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, rescind the illegal measures taken by its authorities in deporting Palestinians and that it facilitate their immediate return;
>
> "3. Calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to cease forthwith the deportation of Palestinians and to abide scrupulously by the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;
>
> "4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible but not later than the beginning of its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 3 July 1992, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/550
23 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 74

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Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 F)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 F of 9 December 1991, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Strongly condemns Israel, the occupying Power, for its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, particularly Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council, inter alia, decided that the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Arab Golan was null and void and without international legal effect and demanded that Israel, the occupying Power, should rescind forthwith its decision;

"2. Condemns the persistence of Israel in changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan;

"3. Determines that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, that purport to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;

"4. Strongly condemns Israel for its attempts forcibly to impose Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and calls upon it to desist from its repressive measures against the population of the occupied Syrian Golan;

"5. Deplores the violations by Israel of the Convention;

"6. Calls once again upon Member States not to recognize any of the legislative or administrative measures and actions referred to above;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 3 July 1992, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/551
23 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 74

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Report of the Secretary-General

(in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 G)

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/47 G of 9 December 1991, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Reaffirms the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967;

"2. Condemns Israeli policies and practices against Palestinian students and faculty members in schools, universities and other educational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory, especially the opening of fire on defenceless students, causing many casualties;

"3. Also condemns the systematic Israeli campaign of repression against and closing of universities, schools and other educational and vocational institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory, in large numbers and for prolonged periods, restricting and impeding the academic activities of Palestinian universities by subjecting the selection of courses, textbooks and educational programmes, the admission of students

and the appointment of faculty members to the control and supervision of the military occupation authorities, in flagrant contravention of the Convention;

"4. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with the provisions of that Convention, rescind all actions and measures taken against all educational institutions, ensure the freedom of those institutions and refrain forthwith from hindering the effective operation of the universities, schools and other educational institutions;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly as soon as possible but not later than the beginning of its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

2. On 3 July 1992, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, in which he requested, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, that the Minister for Foreign Affairs inform him of any steps his Government had taken or envisaged taking in implementation of the relevant provisions of the resolution.

3. No reply had been received at the time of the preparation of the present report.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/552
21 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/
FRENCH/SPANISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 97 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Human rights and mass exoduses

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	2
II.	ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL	4 - 8	4

Annexes

I.	Replies received from Member States	6
II.	Replies received from United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations	17
III.	Replies received from non-governmental organizations	19

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/127 of 17 December 1991, the General Assembly, inter alia, again invited all Governments and intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations concerned to intensify their cooperation with and assistance to world-wide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, and also the causes of such exoduses; requested all Governments to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant international instruments, in particular in the field of human rights, as this would contribute to averting new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons; invited the Commission on Human Rights to keep the question of human rights and mass exoduses under review with a view to supporting the early-warning arrangement instituted by the Secretary-General to avert new massive flows of refugees and displaced persons; noted with appreciation the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General, in his annual report on the work of the Organization, on the need to develop the capacity of the United Nations for early warning and preventive diplomacy to help deter humanitarian crises; took note of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and mass exoduses (A/46/542), and reiterated its request that future reports include information concerning the modalities and operations of early-warning activities to avert new and massive flows of refugees; specially encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to discharge the task described in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees (A/41/324, annex), including the continuous monitoring of all potential outflows, and to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) contained in its report entitled "The coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows" (A/45/649 and Corr.1, annex); requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary information available to the competent United Nations organs, bearing in mind the recommendations of JIU on coordination; welcomed the establishment by the Administrative Committee on Coordination of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Early Warning regarding New Flows of Refugees and Displaced Persons with a mandate to develop an effective early-warning system related to possible flows of refugees and displaced persons, including practical measures of cooperation and procedures for gathering, analysing and disseminating information in a timely manner to all concerned, and to make recommendations on the need for an inter-agency consultative mechanism; urged the Ad Hoc Working Group to carry out its mandate and submit to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) in 1992 its report on the early-warning mechanism to be established; requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the strengthened role that he is playing in undertaking early-warning activities, especially in the humanitarian area, as well as on any further developments relating to the recommedations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees; invited the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the efforts to follow up recommendations of JIU; and invited the Secretary-General to include in his report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session detailed information on the programmatic, institutional,

administrative, financial, and managerial efforts instituted to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to avert new flows of refugees and to tackle the root causes of such outflows.

2. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1992/63 of 3 March 1992, while reiterating the above-mentioned invitation and request addressed to all Governments and international organizations concerned, inter alia, again invited the Secretary-General, all intergovernmental agencies and offices, as well as international agencies concerned, speedily to implement the recommendations contained in the report of JIU on the coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows; requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to develop the role of the Secretariat to strengthen the coordination of information-gathering and analysis with agencies so as to provide early warning of developing situations requiring the attention of the Secretary-General, as well as to provide a focal point within the United Nations system for policy response, including identification of the policy options for the Secretary-General; welcomed the establishment of the position of Emergency Relief Coordinator; urged the Secretary-General to attach a high priority and allocate the necessary resources to the consolidation and strengthening of the system for undertaking early-warning activities in the humanitarian area by, inter alia, strengthened coordination among relevant offices of the Secretariat concerned with early warning, including the Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, and organizations of the United Nations system, and, in particular, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Centre for Human Rights and the relevant specialized agencies, for the purpose of ensuring, inter alia, that effective action is taken to identify human rights abuses which contribute to mass outflows of persons; welcomed the establishment by ACC of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Early Warning regarding New Flows of Refugees and Displaced Persons, with a mandate to develop an effective early-warning system, and the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 46/127 that the Ad Hoc Working Group submit to ACC in 1992 its report on the early-warning mechanism to be established; and looked forward to the report of the Secretary-General to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

3. In view of his reporting responsibility under those resolutions, the Secretary-General, on 8 May 1992, addressed notes verbales to all Governments and letters to United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned and requested them to provide him with information and views relating to the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts. The replies received from Armenia, Australia, Canada, Cuba, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Iraq, Morocco and Uruguay are reproduced in annex I to the present report; the replies received from the Food and Agriculture Oraganization of the United Nations (FAO), as well as from the International Fédération Terre des Hommes and the Refugee Policy Group are reproduced in annexes II and III, respectively.

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

4. The new Secretary-General assumed office on 1 January 1992 and undertook to restructure the United Nations Secretariat. The relevant decisions, which were announced in February 1992, have had a profound impact on the manner in which the issue of human rights and mass exoduses is handled by the United Nations. The most significant measures, as far as this issue is concerned, were the dissolution of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information (ORCI) and the absorption of its functions in the reconstituted Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the newly created Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA). The Secretary-General, in response to General Assembly resolution 46/182, had appointed an Emergency Relief Coordinator and established the Department of Humanitarian Affairs headed by the Coordinator as Under-Secretary-General who assumed his new functions in April 1992.

5. As requested under General Assembly resolution 46/127 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63, as well as other relevant resolutions, the Secretary-General has sought to monitor matters related to human rights and mass exoduses and to strengthen the early-warning role of the United Nations in this area, including humanitarian aspects, in the light of the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts. The organizational changes described above resulted in the assignment to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Political Affairs of joint responsibility for such monitoring and early warning.

6. As reported in the previous report on this item, ACC in April 1991 set up an Ad Hoc Working Group on Early Warning regarding New Flows of Refugees and Displaced Persons. This group met on several occasions at Geneva with a view to developing an effective early-warning system related to possible flows of refugees and displaced persons and making recommendations for an inter-agency consultative mechanism. The Ad Hoc Working Group concluded its deliberations on 26 June 1992 and adopted by consensus its draft report to ACC. The Ad Hoc Working Group further decided that the Department of Humanitarian Affairs should become the focal point in this new consultative arrangement, subject to the concurrence of ACC.

7. Some progress has been achieved in the computerization of early-warning data gathering. In this context, the decision of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session to establish a special post for this task during the biennium 1992-1993 was extremely helpful. Efforts are currently under way to introduce computer-assisted monitoring and analysis of relevant data in the Department of Political Affairs. A similar approach to the monitoring function is also under active consideration in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs both in New York and Geneva. If this work advances without further interruption and is properly funded, computerized early warning as it relates to the numerous root causes of mass exoduses should become fully operational in the near future. This capacity will greatly assist the Secretary-General and the humanitarian offices in the early detection of incipient mass flight and thereby enable the United Nations to respond effectively and in a timely fashion to prevent crises in their early stages.

8. The system-wide consultative mechanism for early warning of potential mass exoduses is expected to become effective in early 1993. This will constitute another significant step towards implementation of the mandate under General Assembly resolution 46/127.

ANNEX I

Replies received from Member States

ARMENIA

[Original: English]

[16 July 1992]

1. The Government of the Republic of Armenia is in agreement with General Assembly resolution 46/127 of 17 December 1991 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63 of 3 March 1992.

2. We consider these resolutions to be of paramount importance to Armenia since our country has been deeply affected by the influx of approximately 500,000 refugees and displaced persons, as a result of human rights violations committed by the Government of Azerbaijan against the people of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh. Another 30,000 refugees have recently arrived in Armenia from the Shahumian district and Martakert region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The influx of refugees continues to exacerbate the difficult situation that had already existed in Armenia as a result of the catastrophic earthquake of 1988.

3. Although humanitarian assistance has been slow in coming, and for political reasons has been hindered by third parties, the Republic of Armenia has continued to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms despite its limited resources. The Republic of Armenia is committed to resolving the refugee problem while continuing to respect the basic rights of the refugees.

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]

[28 August 1992]

1. While Australia agrees with the substance of the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees (A/41/324, annex), we are concerned about the use of the term "refugees" in its broadest sense throughout the document, but particularly in paragraphs 66-72, where it is not used in the sense of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

2. Given the increasingly normative value attached to international law, and the tendency of the judiciary in many countries to draw on international instruments in forming their judgements, we consider that "refugee", as a term of art, should be used more precisely. To this end we believe that in most

cases the better phraseology would have been "refugees and displaced persons" - for example in paragraphs 66 (a), (b), (c) and (e) and also in paragraphs 67 to 72. The two exceptions relate to paragraphs 66 (f) and (g).

3. Paragraph 66 (f) exemplifies the sort of confusion which arises when terms of art are misapplied. In so far as the "norms" spoken of exist, they apply only to Convention refugees. (Certainly Australia could not accept it as having application to a broader class of people). Therefore paragraph 66 (f) should only be regarded as referring to "refugees" in the 1951 Convention sense, in contradistinction to the usage throughout the rest of the document.

CANADA

[Original: English]

[10 August 1992]

1. As the lead sponsor of resolutions entitled "Human rights and mass exoduses" in both the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, the Government of Canada wishes to reiterate the importance it attaches to this subject.

2. The Government of Canada endorses the recommendations contained in paragraphs 66 to 68 of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees. In particular, the Government of Canada welcomes the request contained in paragraph 67 for greater cooperation among States and between States and relevant bodies and organs of the United Nations in order to prevent new massive flows of refugees.

3. In this regard, the Government of Canada endorses the invitation in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63 to Governments and intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations concerned to intensify their cooperation and assistance in world-wide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, and also the causes of such exoduses.

4. The Government of Canada attaches particular importance to paragraph 6 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63, in which the Secretary-General was encouraged to continue to take the necessary steps to discharge the function and responsibilities described in the report of the Group of Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, including the continuous monitoring of all potential outflows, keeping in mind the recommendations of the Joint Inspection unit in its report on the coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows (A/45/649 and Corr.1, annex). The Government of Canada notes that the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/127, encouraged the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit.

5. The Government of Canada welcomes the request in paragraph 12 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63 that the Secretary-General intensify his efforts to develop the role of the Secretariat to strengthen the coordination of information-gathering and analysis with international organizations in order, inter alia, to provide a focal point within the United Nations sytem for policy response. In the view of the Government of Canada, the Emergency Relief Coordinator would be the appropriate choice as this focal point. The attempt to identify emergencies in the making complements his task of coping with emergencies which have occurred. Moreover, the multiple and diverse causes of mass movements of populations (noted in General Assembly resolution 46/127) and the various United Nations agencies that may be involved in any given instance highlights the need for a constant focal point and makes the Emergency Relief Coordinator the logical choice for this role.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[1 September 1992]

1. The Government of the Republic of Cuba attaches great significance to international cooperation to avert new flows of refugees, and to national policies to avert internal displacements or exoduses. It therefore calls for the implementation of the relevant recommendations made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It does so even though on Cuban territory there are no mass displacements and none of the causes which, in accordance with the general provisions of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, define and characterize the term "refugee" - including, by extension, on humanitarian grounds. Cuba is a country which stands out for having given asylum to a large number of refugees ever since the triumph of the Revolution, and for having taken good care of them free of charge.

2. Our country is not yet a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, but it has maintained close links with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in providing for the thousands of Latin American, African and Caribbean refugees to whom it has given asylum and this has earned it the gratitude of that international organization. Particularly noteworthy has been the assistance, rehabilitation and repatriation operation carried out by the Government of Cuba in cooperation with UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has so far benefited 2,212 Haitian citizens.

3. This operation for the protection of Haitian refugees was preceded by another successful project in the same field which included the reception, care and subsequent repatriation of Chilean, Uruguayan and other refugees from the Southern Cone of Latin America, and of Namibian children and adolescents.

4. My Government, as has previously been stated, considers that the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of

Refugees should draw attention to the need to eradicate what are usually the exogenous causes of such flows. In addition, it should highlight the unjust international economic order, the material and social inequalities and the interventionist policies which affect not only international but also internal flows.

5. My country deems equally important the question of the prejudicial and in many cases criminal political manipulation of responses leading to massive flows of refugees or emigrants, exposing them to dangers of all kinds, including mortal danger.

6. In addition to the situation of economic and political refugees and those who are fleeing the destabilizing consequences of armed conflicts and foreign interference, there are the hardships suffered by those who have moved to poor countries that do not have the necessary resources and depend solely on the humanitarian assistance of UNHCR. The resulting human plight calls for careful consideration and thorough analysis.

7. The Government of the Republic of Cuba considers that measures to protect refugees against all forms of discrimination and against forced repatriation or expulsion should be applied as the basic minimum rules for the treatment of such persons and for the safeguarding of human rights.

8. Attention should also be drawn to the definition of the term "refugees", which has been clearly laid down by the competent international bodies but which, for political reasons, has not always been respected by certain Governments when it has come to granting refugee status. Those Governments have recognized as refugees persons who are merely emigrants who for economic reasons have left their countries in search of better economic conditions, especially when their own countries are affected by stringent and discriminatory economic and trade measures.

9. Lastly, mention should be made of the situation in certain countries, which, for the reasons referred to above, are affected by migratory phenomena and to which, for the same reasons, not as many emigrants as would like to return are able to do so.

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[2 July 1992]

1. Ecuador, as a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, has cooperated in the broadest possible manner with the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to find just, lasting and appropriate solutions for refugees and displaced persons.

2. Ecuadorian legislation provides for preventive regulations that have enabled the provisions of the relevant international instruments to be implemented. An example was the enactment, on 6 May 1992, of the Regulation for the implementation in Ecuador of the principles contained in the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and in the 1967 Protocol thereto (a copy of the relevant Official Gazette is annexed hereto). In addition, Interministerial Agreement No. 00003 of 1991 stipulated the arrangements authorizing officially recognized refugees to modify their migratory status and entitling them to exemption from payment of the dues payable under consular tariff regulations.

3. The State of Ecuador, steadfast in its defence of humanitarian principles, has supported the agreements and concerted plans for resolving the problems of refugees and displaced persons in general, and welcomed the holding of the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa and the International Conference on Central American Refugees.

4. It consequently supports the resolutions aimed at improving the complex situation of refugees and displaced persons in Southern Africa and Central America and at providing humanitarian assistance and relief and ensuring rehabilitation and resettlement. It also supports any contribution that the Organization of American States might make to efforts to strengthen peace and consolidate democracy in the southern hemisphere, reiterating its call for member countries to become parties to the inter-American instruments for the protection of human rights and to recognize the competence of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

5. The 1991 reports of the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights make no reference to individual cases involving Ecuador.

6. There are currently 24 refugees and 44 dependants, recognized by the Government, resident in Ecuador.

7. Ecuador has demonstrated its concern about the question of the mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons in the world. It has maintained a policy of support and protection for the victims of such displacements and has worked in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the question of migratory flows, in particular from neighbouring countries, as they affect Ecuador, and the treatment such migrants should receive in Ecuadorian territory.

8. It is therefore in favour of strengthening the United Nations system which is responsible for investigating and implementing a mechanism for early warning of possible massive flows of displaced persons.

9. Ecuador supports all draft resolutions designed to solve the problem of displaced persons and strengthen existing United Nations protection mechanisms.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[23 September 1992]

1. The Government of Finland agrees with the views set forth in General Assembly resolution 46/127 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63. The international community will have to pay increasing attention to the early warning of mass movements of refugees and persons of a similar status and to the ways and means of averting such movements. This may take place effectively only by directing enough attention to the reasons of the refugee problem, including wide-scale violations of human rights in any potential countries of origin.

2. No international agreement has been made to safeguard the legal position of persons who have migrated for humanitarian reasons. This complicates the creation of a coherent international set of principles applicable to mass exoduses.

3. The Government of Finland notes that the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto deal only with persons who have become refugees on account of oppression or violence or a threat thereof. The Convention and Protocol are not thus relevant with respect to persons who have been received because of a need for protection or for humanitarian reasons, without any threat of personal oppression or violence. Therefore, the Convention cannot be applied to mass refugees who have migrated because of inhuman conditions in general. In that case, it is not possible to grant asylum either.

4. Where mass movements of populations are caused by inhuman conditions, due to a war or an armed conflict, in the country of origin, Governments should be active and contribute to the achievement of peaceful solutions. The root causes of the problems should be addressed anyway, whether they be natural disasters, famine or inhuman conditions in the country of origin. The international community should cooperate in an effort to alleviate the consequences of crises in a humanitarian manner.

GERMANY

[Original: English]

[21 August 1992]

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the particular attention which the Secretary-General of the United Nations continues to devote to the issue of international cooperation to avert new flows of refugees, as emphasized in the letter of 8 May 1992 from the Centre for Human Rights at the United Nations Office at Geneva. Germany itself is the destination of considerable refugee flows. Against this backdrop, the Federal

Government looks forward with great expectation to the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on his activities in this area, as requested in paragraph 20 of resolution 46/127.

2. From an early date, the Federal Government has paid special attention to the issue of international cooperation to avert new flows of refugees and took the initiative in 1979 in the attempt to include this increasingly important topic in the agenda of the General Assembly. This initiative was followed by the exhaustive work done by the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees appointed by the General Assembly. The findings of the Group were examined by the General Assembly at its forty-first session, after more than three years' work, and approved in resolution 41/70 of 3 December 1986, which was adopted by consensus.

3. The Federal Government is convinced that this thorough analysis of the reasons behind refugee flows and possible ways of averting them will continue to be of great importance and topicality. Since the General Assembly first turned its attention to this matter, the problem of refugee flows has become even greater in all parts of the world. It confronts the international community with increasingly difficult tasks, which cannot be mastered solely using the traditional means of humanitarian and social emergency relief. It is becoming increasingly clear that UNHCR, too, which plays a major role in this field, has reached the limits of its capacity.

4. Besides the international community's abiding obligation to mitigate the effects of flight and expulsion, it is more than ever vital that effective measures be taken to reveal and combat the causes of refugee flows. Refugee movements must be prevented from developing. That would not only help to ease the burden on the international community but, first and foremost, spare the people concerned great suffering and hardship.

5. The multitude of possible political, socio-economic and natural causes of refugee flows requires all countries alike, first of all, to refrain from action prompting flows of refugees and, what is more, do everything to prevent their emergence. In this context, respect for human rights and basic freedoms is one of the central obligations of countries. The violation of this obligation often triggers flows of refugees, as stated in General Assembly Resolution 46/127. All Governments are therefore called upon to respect and protect human rights in order to avoid causing new flows of refugees.

6. Experience has shown, particularly in the last few years, that other factors besides violations of human rights have contributed considerably to the highly unstable internal conditions in various countries as a result of political, social and cultural tension which has caused large sections of the population to flee their home regions. The Federal Government takes the view that a policy aimed at promoting stability, social equality and respect for human rights in a situation of this kind is the most appropriate means of restoring citizens' confidence in their Government. Such a policy is also an important prerequisite for the internationally attested right to return of citizens who have already fled a country. Preventing new flows of refugees

and the return of refugees to their home countries are, therefore, very closely connected.

7. Against this background, the Federal Government would like to emphasize once more the Secretary-General's responsibility in this sphere, in particular as regards further improvement in the instruments for the early detection of situations that can give rise to flows of refugees, both in terms of evaluating the information gathered in this way and of introducing appropriate measures to prevent conflicts. The Federal Government encourages the Secretary-General to use the power vested in him to the full in this area.

8. The Federal Government will continue to filfil all the obligations contained in resolution 41/70 in its own country, thereby ensuring that the Federal Republic of Germany itself does not become a point of departure for refugee flows.

IRAQ

[Original: Arabic]

[12 August 1992]

1. As a matter of principle, Iraq is cooperating with States and international organizations and is concerting its endeavours with those of the United Nations and the humanitarian organizations concerned, particularly in the field of human rights, with a view to obtaining early warning in order to avert the problem of mass exoduses or deal with it whenever it occurs for various reasons such as natural disasters or international or regional armed conflicts which force the population of nearby regions to move away and, sometimes, to enter neighbouring States.

2. It must be emphasized, however, that the refugee problem should be kept within its humanitarian framework, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and no opportunity should be afforded for States to politicize human rights issues for their own purposes. There is a need to put an end to interference in the internal affairs of States where such interference transcends the desire to safeguard human rights and provides an opportunity for biased States to endanger national security. We also wish to express our reservations in regard to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63, in which an attempt is made to magnify this problem by portraying it as a danger to international peace and security, since this transfers the problem from its humanitarian framework into a political context in which it can be exploited by some major Powers in their own political interests, as is currently happening in some parts of the world.

3. Iraq supports the humanitarian content of General Assembly resolution 46/127 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63 and believes that there is a need diligently to seek practical and rapid solutions to the tragedy of the Palestinian refugees who have been displaced and scattered in various parts of the world since 1948 as a result of Israel's occupation.

MOROCCO

[Original: French]

[30 July 1992]

The recommendations in paragraph 66 of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees prompt the following comments:

(a) The recommendations contained in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (e) setting out a series of preventive measures, are relevant and conducive to averting new massive flows of refugees. However, the fact that they relate only to the countries that potentially generate such migratory flows prevents them from achieving their intended goals. Because of the many economic, political, social and ethnic difficulties of those countries, compounded sometimes by ethnic rivalries, any domestic measures they take are ineffective if they are not supported by concerted international efforts, especially on the part of the developed countries.

(b) It is true that the prevention of new flows of refugees is primarily the responsibility of the countries in which the causes of those flows lie. None the less, the rest of the international community has the duty to take its share of responsibility in a global preventive strategy, inter alia by taking concerted action as soon as the first signs of migratory flows appear.

(c) The recommendations would consequently be improved by a more balanced approach to the preventive measures, calling on all countries in a position to provide aid and assistance to the countries of origin to do so in order to address the root causes of refugee flows.

(d) The recommendation contained in subparagraph (e) concerning international cooperation is not sufficiently clear as to the kind of cooperation expected. It should have specified that it included economic cooperation, which should neither involve conditionality nor afford scope for any right of interference in the affairs of others.

(e) Lastly, the recommendation contained in subparagraph (f) is also one-sided in regard to the obligations of States when massive flows of refugees occur, since it specifies only what the countries of origin "should" do, and not the duties of the countries of asylum. It would therefore have been appropriate to have drawn attention also to the latters' obligations to provide refugees with proper protection in accordance with the provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, as well as their duty to prevent the forcible refoulement of such refugees to their home countries on the pretext that they are economic migrants.

(f) Furthermore, although the best solution to be recommended with regard to refugees is for them to return home voluntarily and for measures to be adopted that will facilitate their return, which must be an inalienable

right of refugees, the other solutions advocated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees must not be neglected, namely resettlement in a country of asylum and settlement in a third country.

(g) The recommendation would thus cover all aspects of the responsibilities of the States of origin and those of the countries of asylum regarding respect for the rights of refugees.

URUGUAY

[Original: Spanish]

[1 July 1992]

1. General Assembly resolution 46/127 of 17 December 1991 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63 of 3 March 1992, both concerning "human rights and mass exoduses", provide for a strengthening of the role of the Secretary-General in early-warning activities, especially in the humanitarian area, and welcomed the establishment by the Administrative Committee on Coordination of an Ad Hoc Working Group on that subject, with special emphasis on the request made by the General Assembly in resolution 46/127.

2. Having in mind the recommendations that this Ad Hoc Working Group will make in due course, our country, as a Member State, is pleased to make the following comments in connection with the section entitled "Recommendations":

(a) Paragraph 66 (a): Throughout its democratic history, the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has consistently upheld the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, especially the principles of non-intervention, the right of peoples to self-determination and refraining from the use or threat of force;

(b) Paragraph 66 (b): Similarly, it has always advocated the peaceful settlement of international disputes and friendly and cooperative relations among States;

(c) Paragraph 66 (c): Strict respect for human rights being the cornerstone of the democratic organization of the State, there have been no causes or factors that could lead to massive flows of refugees in the Republic;

(d) Paragraph 66 (d): Similarly, Uruguay has promoted the full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, without any discrimination on grounds of nationality, as provided for in the Constitution of the Republic;

(e) Paragraphs 66 (e), (f) and (g): Although there are no massive flows of refugees or causes which might lead to such flows in its territory, our

country abides by and promotes the prevailing principles of international law on the subject, and advocates international cooperation as a means of preventing such flows or mitigating their consequences.

ANNEX II

Replies received from United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

[Original: English]

[13 August 1992]

1. In line with General Assembly resolution 46/127 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/63 and the conclusions and recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, and in support of the Secretary-General's efforts to alleviate the human suffering of millions of refugees and displaced persons, FAO has attached priority to its activities in helping to address their requirements.

2. Through its Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS), FAO assesses and monitors crop and food supply conditions and the food requirements of the population, including refugees and displaced persons in countries which are actually experiencing difficulties or where problems may arise in future from man-made and natural causes. Intensive monitoring of the food supply situation is being carried out in drought-affected countries in Western, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, which are also facing simultaneously the impact of refugees and displaced persons. The food requirements of refugees and displaced persons are included in GIEWS reports on countries in Eastern Europe and Asia as well. The assessments are provided to the donor community in order to mobilize the required international assistance.

3. FAO has provided inputs to the consolidated United Nations inter-agency appeals for international assistance in the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa and Cambodia, which include refugees and displaced persons. FAO works closely in the preparation of the appeals with the newly established United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA), which has been assigned responsibility for the coordination of emergency matters within the United Nations System. It may be mentioned that FAO and DHA have worked out detailed arrangements for mutual cooperation and collaboration. FAO has also participated in the ACC Ad Hoc Working Group on Early Warning regarding New Flows of Refugees and Displaced Persons since its establishment in 1991.

4. FAO continues to provide assistance to developing countries in the formulation of national disaster preparedness plans. The Organization also assists in the establishment of national and regional early-warning systems as components of food security arrangements, which promote stability of supplies with emphasis on vulnerable groups, including refugees and displaced persons.

5. With regard to mass exoduses caused by civil strife, FAO has provided emergency relief and humanitarian support, through its representations in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone, to refugees from Liberia at the outbreak of civil war in the country.

6. In the Latin American and Caribbean region, FAO has been associated with efforts undertaken in the framework of the International Conference on Central American Refugees and attended various meetings, including that held in San Salvador, El Salvador from 7 to 8 April 1992. In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, a Special Alert regarding the Food Supply Situation in Haiti was made by GIEWS at the end of February 1992, and a number of emergency relief projects are being carried out by FAO in the region.

7. Problems related to human rights and mass exoduses are also evident in the regions of former Yugoslavia and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. At the request of the European Economic Community, FAO has mounted a mission to assess crop production prospects and the food situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States. FAO's efforts will concentrate on monitoring the food situation and related developments in the agricultural sector in former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union.

ANNEX III

Replies received from non-governmental organizations

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION TERRE DES HOMMES

[Original: French]

[17 August 1992]

1. The International Federation Terre des Hommes (FITDH) fully endorses the recommendations set out in document A/41/324, especially those concerning development as the best way of preventing flows of refugees from the South to the North.

2. According to United Nations projections, the world population, which totalled 5.3 billion at the beginning of 1990, should rise to 6.25 billion by the year 2000 and 8.5 billion by 2025. By then, the vast majority will be persons living in the developing countries. Meanwhile, if the gap between the relatively high standard of living in the Western world and the standard of living in the developing countries continues to widen, the Western world will exert an increasingly powerful attraction on the inhabitants of the developing world. This means that the flow of refugees from the South to the North which we have witnessed since the beginning of the 1980s may steadily increase in coming decades, unless the economic situation of the third world countries improves substantially. To avert this situation, the Western countries have but one alternative, that of cooperating with the developing countries in order to help them to ensure the exercise of eonomic, social and cultural rights by their populations as a whole. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have a significant role to play in this process, and participation by the people is a prerequisite for development.

REFUGEE POLICY GROUP

[Original: English]

[26 June 1992]

1. At the last session of the Commission on Human Rights, the Refugee Policy Group delivered a statement on this subject that urged the Commission to give consideration to the preparation of an annual review of human rights violations in specific countries that are giving rise to mass refugee flows in order to enable the Commission to examine more closely the root causes of refugee flows and to develop strategies to deal with them. It also called upon the Secretary-General to establish direct contacts with Governments of countries from which mass exoduses are originating and noted that holding Governments responsible for mass exoduses is among the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Cooperation to Avert New Flows of Refugees.

2. The statement further called for the establishment of an effective early-warning system within the United Nations system to alert the international community to impending refugee flows. It urged that emphasis be given to strengthening the capability of the relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the Centre for Human Rights, UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme, to enable them to play an active role in identifying situations that could contribute to mass refugee flows and alerting the Secretary-General when action is needed. It also called for strengthened coordination and the creation of a focal point within the United Nations system for policy response. It urged that the office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator should receive and oversee all early-warning information relevant to humanitarian emergencies.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/553
22 October 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 87 (b)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Emergency assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1	2
II.	BACKGROUND	2 - 7	2
III.	IMPACT OF THE CRISIS	8 - 22	3
IV.	INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF AND REHABILITATION	23 - 42	6
V.	SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED	43 - 52	11
VI.	ASSISTANCE BY MEMBER STATES AND UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS	53 - 98	12
	A. Member States	54 - 71	12
	B. United Nations organizations	72 - 98	17

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/176 of 19 December 1991, on emergency assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia, the General Assembly, inter alia:

(a) Appealed to all States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to extend emergency assistance to Somalia, taking into account the statement on the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa made before the Second Committee of the General Assembly on 31 October 1991 by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship (see A/C.2/46/SR.26);

(b) Urged the concerned specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to resume on the most urgent basis their assistance programmes in their respective fields of competence in order to alleviate the suffering of all the affected population in accessible areas;

(c) Appealed to all parties concerned to terminate hostilities and to engage in a national reconciliation process which would lead to the re-establishment of peace, order and stability and also facilitate the relief and rehabilitation efforts;

(d) Called upon the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian assistance for Somalia;

(e) Requested the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation prevailing in Somalia, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

II. BACKGROUND

2. Four years of civil war, against a backdrop of years of neglect and lack of investment in human development, basic services and infrastructure, have left Somalia in ruins. Major cities in northern Somalia have been reduced to rubble; houses, public buildings, communications and water systems have been destroyed and an already inadequate health sector has been rendered incapable of providing even the most rudimentary services. It is estimated that at least 60 per cent of the country's basic infrastructure has been destroyed, and 80 per cent of all social services have been rendered non-operational.

Agricultural production and Somalia's vital livestock trade have been crippled and an entire generation of Somali children is growing up without access to education.

3. In the 22 months that have passed since the overthrow of President Siad Barre, the situation in most parts of the country has continued to deteriorate. As foreseen early in 1992, almost 4.5 million people are threatened by severe malnutrition and malnutrition-related disease. Of these, at least 1.5 million lives are immediately at risk, and it is estimated that 300,000 people have already died since November 1991.

4. Throughout the period covered by the present report, there has been no functioning government in most parts of the country. Political instability is rife, and inter- and intra-clan violence abounds. The struggle for power has plunged towns and cities into a nightmare of insecurity, which in turn has hampered the delivery of vitally needed humanitarian assistance and increasingly threatens the well-being of relief workers.

5. Owing to a combination of deteriorating security and drought, some 700,000 Somalis have sought refuge in neighbouring countries and another 300,000 are exiled in Europe, North America, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and elsewhere. In Kenya alone, over 300,000 Somalis have taken refuge during the past 18 months.

6. Despite a situation which for most of the year has bordered on anarchy, a determined band of non-governmental organizations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) maintained a continuous presence, principally at Mogadishu and Hargeisa during these tumultuous times. United Nations agencies had officially evacuated the capital by September 1991. However, the Secretary-General gave UNICEF, which had been working in northern Somalia, an unprecedented dispensation to re-establish its presence in Mogadishu on 24 December 1991. WFP re-established its operations in the country in March of the following year.

7. The relief efforts of the non-governmental organizations, ICRC, WFP and UNICEF continued to be severely hampered throughout much of the year. Deliveries of humanitarian assistance were subject to extensive theft and looting, and relief workers laboured under extremely hazardous conditions. In the midst of this chaos, many hundreds of Somali doctors and a number of indigenous non-governmental organizations and local community groups also placed themselves at risk in their attempts to help people. Over the months, the fundamental breakdown in law and order has resulted in the deaths of many local and expatriate relief staff.

III. IMPACT OF THE CRISIS

8. The crisis affecting Somalia took its toll in different ways and at different times throughout the country.

Mogadishu

9. During the first half of the year, considerable attention was focused on the capital, Mogadishu, where factional fighting between interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Mohamed Farah Aidid, chairman of the United Somali Congress (USC), had resulted in the death or wounding of approximately 25,000 people. By March, over 500,000 people were reported to have virtually no access to basic services. Two months later this figure had increased to 700,000.

10. Although some food supplies had been brought into Mogadishu by traders, market prices were exorbitant and beyond the means of most of the population. Food distributions had stopped in November 1991 and, in January 1992, 7,000 metric tons of WFP food stored at the port of Mogadishu were looted. WFP attempted to deliver additional food in March, but the delivery had to be aborted following an attack on the WFP vessel on 4 March ouside Mogadishu port.

11. With a United Nations-brokered cease-fire in place in the capital by 3 March, opportunities to provide relief assistance gradually improved. In May, lengthy and difficult negotiations between the United Nations and representatives of both factions of USC culminated in a major breakthrough, with the reopening of the Mogadishu port for a WFP vessel. Though always fraught with hazards, the delivery of food and non-food relief by WFP, UNICEF and ICRC to north and south Mogadishu had eased to a significant extent by June. Nevertheless, the need to ensure a continuous flow of relief assistance into the city and its environs remains of prime importance.

Central region

12. The central region held a total of 500,000 displaced people by April 1992. Some 120,000 people who had fled Mogadishu were living in precarious conditions around the small coastal port of Merca, south of the capital. Delivery of relief food had been disrupted by Mogadishu-based armed gangs, although an indigenous non-governmental organization was able to assist about 1,300 vulnerable people on a regular basis. ICRC sought to provide for displaced populations in the area by deliveries brought to shore by small craft.

13. The area of Belet Uen, which lies between the riverine environment of the Shabelle River and the drier regions to the north, also rapidly became a centre for large numbers of displaced people. Belet Uen, the capital of Hiran region, became a catchment point for tens of thousands of people in search of relief assistance from Bakool, Bay and even distant Mogadishu. ICRC provided assistance through an extensive airlift operation, while non-governmental organizations undertook medical, supplementary feeding and mother and child health care programmes.

South-west Somalia

14. Gedo and Bay regions in the south-west served as a transit point for hundreds of thousands of refugees crossing into Kenya. These regions were also a major battleground between the forces of Mr. Siad Barre and General Aidid, and access for the provision of humanitarian assistance has proved extremely difficult. As greater access was gained to these regions towards the middle of the year, the full scope of the tragedy that was emerging because of the drought and civil conflict began to become apparent.

15. In the Bay region, Baidoa, one of the worst affected areas in terms of looting, also became one of the first symbols of the extensive human tragedy afflicting the rural populations of Somalia. Access to the area was often difficult, and relief airlifts became an essential means of delivery. UNICEF, WFP and a wide range of non-governmental organizations continue to expand their activities both in Baidoa and in the rural areas adjacent to the town. Similarly, Hoddur, in Gedo region, and Bardera in Middle Juba region, have become major centres for displaced populations in desperate search of food, basic medical assistance and shelter.

South-east Somalia

16. In Lower Juba region, Kismayo was one of the last Somali towns to suffer destruction in interfactional battles; it finally came under the control of the Somali National Alliance (SNA) on 15 May. The town's population is estimated to be 160,000, including displaced persons. In August, there were 40 camps containing 50,000 displaced people in total. The port is essential for deliveries of assistance to the hinterland but security in the port has frequently been uncertain.

17. The Lower Juba area has also witnessed the build-up of hundreds of thousands of displaced people close to the border of Kenya. This potential refugee influx has been of grave concern to the Government of Kenya and UNHCR, particularly in the light of the large numbers of Somalis who have already sought refuge in Kenya.

North-west Somalia

18. The north-west suffered heavily during the civil war in 1990. Its main city, Hargeisa, once home to over 500,000 people, was virtually abandoned by the population, most of whom fled to refugee camps in Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya. Although many of them have now returned to the city, some 85 per cent of homes and public buildings were destroyed. Health care services, water systems, schools and sanitation, as well as communication and banking systems, were virtually wiped out throughout the region. In addition, hundreds of thousands of land-mines continue to pose a major risk to the lives of Somalis as well as relief workers.

19. Throughout most of 1991, the north-west remained relatively stable. However, continued stability was perceived by many to be dependent on a

large-scale infusion of rehabilitation assistance, particularly to meet essential infrastructural and institutional needs. Such assistance has not been forthcoming, despite frequent appeals, and the consequent lack of institutional and infrastructural recovery has been reflected in an upsurge of inter-clan rivalries, robbery and looting since the early months of 1992.

North-east Somalia

20. Although the security situation throughout most parts of the north-east has been relatively stable for much of the year, clashes between the controlling party, the Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF), and other groups have occurred periodically. With the assassination of a UNICEF staff member in January 1992 at Bossasso, it was deemed necessary to withdraw the United Nations presence. To date, there is no representative of an international organization in the region.

21. The port of Bossasso, however, remained active for commercial traffic, with off-take reportedly up to 20 trucks a day ferrying supplies to central Somalia, the Ogaden region of Ethiopia and down to Mogadishu.

22. Much of the area experienced severe drought in 1991 and pasturelands were seriously depleted. This has had serious repercussions on an economy highly dependent upon livestock. Because of poor livestock health and lack of veterinary services, export markets have suffered greatly. In addition, many tens of thousands of displaced persons from Mogadishu and other areas in the south place a severe burden on the fragile economy of the north-east region.

IV. INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE UNITED NATIONS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

23. In March 1992, following a series of meetings in Mogadishu and New York, the United Nations successfully negotiated a cease-fire between the two factions of USC contesting Mogadishu. The cease-fire has held since then despite periodic breaches, making it possible for humanitarian assistance to reach both sides of the divided city. Access to the city was further enhanced when UNICEF, in the course of a dramatic rescue of a staff member trapped in crossfire, was able to move a convoy through the front lines between south and north Mogadishu. In May, the United Nations negotiated and established a vital route along the beach for convoys coming from the north to pick up food from the port. Now large numbers of people from both north and south Mogadishu cross the front lines daily using established corridors.

24. On 18 March 1992, the Secretary-General, conscious of the urgent need to coordinate all aspects of the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Somalia, appointed a United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia.

25. The Security Council, by its resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992, approved deployment of a 50-member observer force to monitor the cease-fire in Mogadishu; agreed in principle to the deployment of a 500-member security

force to protect relief goods and personnel; and endorsed a 90-day Plan of Action for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia proposed by a technical mission which had visited the country earlier in the month. These three elements were brought under the aegis of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), and a Special Representative of the Secretary-General was appointed to provide overall direction of United Nations activities in the country and assist in promoting peace and national reconciliation. The 50 military observers were deployed in July-August 1992 and the 500-member security force arrived at Mogadishu during the month of September.

26. To ensure that the distribution of relief assistance in the capital would not become embroiled in the continuing disputes between the two contending USC factions, the technical mission had obtained the agreement of both parties that a Joint Committee on Relief Assistance, under the supervision of the United Nations, would determine allocations from the port of Mogadishu. The Committee has since become instrumental in the apportioning, overseeing and monitoring of the relief operation, though there are growing concerns that it is becoming a hindrance to the rapid provision of assistance outside the capital.

27. A United Nations technical team visited Somalia from 6 to 15 August 1992 to examine means of expanding the scope and effectiveness of UNOSOM. On the basis of the technical team's findings, the Secretary-General recommended in his report to the Security Council (S/24480 and Add.1):

(a) To increase substantially the airlift operations in which WFP, UNICEF and ICRC were already active;

(b) To establish a "preventive zone" on the Kenya-Somalia border for special deliveries of food and seed, in an attempt to reduce famine-induced population movements;

(c) To deploy four additional security units of up to 750 each in different parts of the country, subject to agreement by the concerned parties;

(d) To establish four UNOSOM zone headquarters, each headed by a civilian official, as the operational basis for a comprehensive approach to the Somalian problem. This approach would deal with humanitarian relief and recovery, the cessation of hostilities and security, the peace process and national reconciliation in a consolidated framework.

28. The Security Council, by its resolution 775 (1992) of 28 August 1992, endorsed these proposals and called upon all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in his efforts. The Council had earlier asserted, in its resolution 767 (1992) of 27 July 1992, that, in the absence of the cooperation of the parties in the deployment of the United Nations security personnel, it did not exclude other measures to deliver humanitarian assistance to Somalia.

29. As part of the overall effort to accelerate humanitarian relief activities, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs led a high-level inter-agency mission to Somalia between 10 and 12 September 1992. He was accompanied by the Executive Director of UNICEF and high-level officials of UNDP, WFP, UNHCR, FAO and WHO. The mission team met with various political leaders and clan elders, and with non-governmental organizations, ICRC and United Nations relief workers. A major outcome of the mission was the decision to develop a 100-day Action Programme for Accelerated Humanitarian Assistance, for the period until the end of 1992.

30. The 100-day Programme was drafted and refined through a collaborative process involving United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other relevant entities. It identifies the priority actions that must be taken before the end of 1992 in order to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs in Somalia. It also identifies the mechanisms required to implement the programme, the obstacles to be expected and ways in which they might be overcome.

31. The 100-day Programme was reviewed at the coordination meeting on humanitarian assistance for Somalia, held at Geneva on 12 and 13 October 1992 under the chairmanship of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia. The attendance at the meeting, reflecting the heightened international concern for Somalia, included over 350 representatives from 89 countries, 15 non-governmental organizations, ICRC, 5 intergovernmental organizations and 15 organizations and agencies of the United Nations system.

32. The priority actions of the 100-day Programme include eight main components:

(a) Massive infusion of food aid;

(b) Expansion of supplementary feeding;

(c) Provision of basic health services and a mass immunization campaign;

(d) Urgent provision of clean water, sanitation and hygiene;

(e) Provision of shelter materials, including blankets and clothes;

(f) Simultaneous delivery of seeds, tools and animal vaccines with food rations;

(g) Prevention of further refugee outflows and displacements and initiation of returnee programmes;

(h) Promoting the rebuilding of civil society and local institutions, and economic and social recovery and rehabilitation.

33. Resources of up to $83 million are required for the implementation of the 100-day Programme. While virtually all major donors expressed strong support for the Programme, most indicated that they would need more time to review it and respond in detail. None the less, many countries demonstrated their solidarity with the plight of the Somali people by pledging a wide range of assistance. Some Governments offered additional aid support, while others pledged food, cash, supplementary food and medicines. Donors were encouraged to transform their pledges into actual contributions with all due speed, and to pay special attention to the non-food sectors, where donor response in most large relief efforts has traditionally been weaker.

34. During the Geneva meeting, there emerged a number of conclusions that bear on both the implementation of the 100-day Programme and the humanitarian efforts that will follow it.

35. All agreed that insecurity continues to create massive humanitarian needs and is the major obstacle to the provision of humanitarian aid. Strong support was voiced for the deployment of United Nations security personnel, as well as for the deployment of additional UNOSOM staff to carry out increased negotiations of security arrangements in sites where relief efforts are under way. The United Nations and others were encouraged to help build up and support local security elements under the aegis of credible local authorities and traditional leaders.

36. It was agreed at the meeting that the creation of peace and security in Somalia depends ultimately on the success of a process of national reconciliation. Continued United Nations efforts in this regard were strongly supported. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General expressed the hope that a conference to discuss such political matters, attended by a wide range of Somali leaders, might be convened by the end of 1992.

37. Regarding logistics and delivery, the 100-day Programme calls for some 50,000 metric tons of food per month to be delivered and distributed in Somalia. From the United Nations side, while sufficient food has been pledged to meet this target, additional funds are needed for transport and distribution. Programmes will be undertaken to monetize food aid, especially higher value commodities, through sales to Somali merchants. Further attention will be given to providing United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations with the bulk fuel deliveries they need for their operations, for which the major problem is security.

38. Coordination of relief efforts remains an important concern. The Geneva meeting heard strong support for a clear division of responsibility among the respective United Nations agencies, under the overall direction of the office of the Special Representative. Efforts will be made by UNOSOM to improve such coordination in part by accelerating the fielding of staff, both at Mogadishu and in the four designated zones, especially to the office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance. Suggestions for improving the coordination of relief efforts based in Kenya will be examined closely.

39. It is abundantly clear that non-governmental organizations play a critical role in providing humanitarian aid to Somalia. Participants at the Geneva meeting urged UNOSOM and the United Nations agencies to enhance their support for non-governmental organizations activities through:

(a) Increased efforts for the protection of relief workers and supplies;

(b) Increased negotiations on behalf of non-governmental organizations with the various factions and political leaders regarding obstacles to relief delivery;

(c) Increased logistical support;

(d) Provision of funding and in-kind resources for non-governmental organizations implementing partners;

(e) Provision of a system-wide communications network.

40. While the 100-day Programme focuses primarily on immediate relief needs, many participants in the Geneva meeting stressed the importance of simultaneously undertaking rehabilitation efforts. This is especially true of parts of north-west, north-east and central Somalia, where such efforts are both needed and viable. Helping Somalis to rebuild their physical and human infrastructure, from water systems to schools, and providing key inputs in areas such as animal vaccination, will not only address humanitarian needs but also promote stability and eliminate the need for more relief efforts later. While it is difficult to predict the course of events into 1993, it is hoped that efforts after the end of the 100-day Programme can incorporate a larger rehabilitation component.

41. The implementation of the 100-day Programme, as well as the follow-on actions in 1993, will depend upon the full cooperation of all segments of Somali society. In this regard, the Special Representative proposed a follow-up conference to take place towards the end of November 1992 at Addis Ababa. This would be a conference of aid agencies, donors and concerned countries as well as relevant Somali groupings. Its objective would be to review the practical implementation arrangements with a view to ensuring that the 100-day Programme has the full support of all concerned.

42. Plans for humanitarian assistance to Somalia in 1993 will be reviewed in November and December as part of the overall review of needs encompassed in the revised appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa.

V. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ACHIEVED

Food aid

43. The main providers of food aid are WFP and ICRC, which since June 1991 have been working in close cooperation in directing relief assistance to targeted areas. As at early September, ICRC had brought 83,000 tons of food into Somalia and was working on a pipeline of about 20,000 tons per month. WFP had brought 50,000 tons and pre-positioned another 30,000 tons, with 100,000 tons en route. Thenceforth WFP planned to move 33,000 tons into Somalia per month with coverage dependent on security. The combined WFP and ICRC targets would meet the food needs of 3 million people.

44. Bilaterally, the Governments of France and Saudi Arabia have sent ships bearing relief goods to Mogadishu port. CARE International, which is in charge of distributing WFP food supplies, provided 4,500 tons on its own account. In mid-August, the Government of the United States of America announced that it would provide 145,000 tons of foodstuffs. By September, 70,000 tons were already moving or had arrived for distribution through WFP, ICRC and Catholic Relief Services programmes. The United States military had also begun airlifting ICRC food stocks to southern Somalia and WFP food stocks to refugee sites in Kenya. Other donor Governments such as Canada, France and Germany were also contributing to the urgent airlift. WFP had airlifted over 780 tons to four different locations in Somalia and had initiated air-drops to the most remote areas.

Non-food assistance

45. In September, UNICEF had more than 40 staff members in Somalia, with offices at Mogadishu and seven other cities. It operated eight mother and child health centres and provided support to 27 other such centres, 7 hospitals, 30 village health posts and scores of camps for displaced persons. In July alone, 10,000 children under the age of five were vaccinated.

46. Since January 1992, UNICEF has been operating relief flights and has provided more than 800 tons of medical supplies, shelter material, supplementary food and water equipment.

47. WHO provides basic drugs and medical equipment to indigenous and international health agencies working in Somalia, at an average expenditure of $250,000 per month. It proposes to station four medical coordinators in the country, subject to adequate security arrangements. ICRC activities are focused on surgery for the war wounded and assistance to medical facilities. UNICEF, non-governmental organizations and bilateral agencies have started rehabilitation of water supply and sewer systems in a number of cities.

48. ICRC has distributed seeds and hand tools in farming regions. OXFAM and UNICEF have committed themselves to a joint programme of seeds and tool provision to up to 16,000 farming families in the Juba valley. FAO has four emergency projects aimed at rehabilitation of refugee farmers in north-western

Somalia. Livestock vaccination and veterinary assistance need urgent attention in the pastoral zones.

Assistance to refugees

49. UNHCR has decided to reopen its office at Hargeisa, initially with three international staff. The office will resume implementation of a multi-agency returnee programme in sectors such as water supply, sanitation, health services and education.

50. UNHCR will also play a major role in the preventive zone programme, involving cross-border deliveries of food and seed from Kenya to Somalia.

Rehabilitation and recovery

51. A UNDP consultant visited south and central Somalia in August to assess the conditions of displaced persons. His final report will recommend measures to prioritize ongoing relief activities as well as rehabilitation and recovery strategies to complement the humanitarian relief effort.

52. UNDP is also sponsoring a project to support Mogadishu's water supply and has contacted the International Civil Aviation organization (ICAO) concerning technical expertise to improve airport safety, management and administration.

VI. ASSISTANCE BY MEMBER STATES AND UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS

53. In addition to the activities described above, several Member States and United Nations organizations have provided information on assistance rendered to Somalia in compliance with General Assembly resolution 46/176.

A. Member States*

Canada

54. As part of its response to the 1992 appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, the Government of Canada provided, as at mid-May 1992, $Can 3,500,000 for food aid and a total of $Can 1,900,000 in non-food aid for Somalia. Food aid was provided through ICRC, whereas non-food aid consisted of contributions of $700,000 to UNICEF for health and nutrition support, $500,000 to WHO for restoration of health facilities and the control of communicable diseases, $200,000 to FAO to help control animal health deterioration, and $500,000 to UNHCR for the maintenance of Ethiopian refugees in Somalia and the repatriation and reintegration of 200,000 Somalis.

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* Responses reflect contributions received as at 15 October 1992. Future contributions will be included in an addendum to the present document.

Cyprus

55. Cyprus contributed $3,000 as humanitarian aid for Somalia.

Denmark

56. Denmark's contribution for emergency assistance to Somalia in 1991 amounted to DKr 2 million, of which 1 million has been channelled through the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) and 1 million through Danish non-governmental organizations.

France

57. France just shipped substantial food aid to Somalia on the vessel Le Briantais, which arrived in the port of Mogadishu on 4 August 1992. Its cargo consisted of food supplies (flour, oil and rice) and fuel: a total of 2,500 tons were delivered in this way, at a total cost of F 13 million.

58. Air links have also been used to ship food: the first C-130 arrived on 4 August at the airport of Baidoa carrying 20 tons of food on board. A second one landed on 8 August in that city with 20 tons of food and medical supplies. The overall cost for these two flights amounted to F 1 million. Regular civil aviation links are also being used: an Air France flight bound for Djibouti delivered medicine and blankets on 6 August.

59. For upcoming operations, there are plans to send a second vessel carrying approximately 2,500 to 5,000 tons of aid. There are also plans to increase the shipment of aid by air through civil aviation links with Djibouti. Lastly, medical and nutritional teams could be strengthened in order to "medicalize" humanitarian assistance.

Germany

60. In 1992 the Government of Germany will support two food aid projects in Somalia:

(a) The overall amount for the first project will be DM 4.7 million, comprising DM 3,860,000 for non-cereals and DM 840,000 for transportation costs;

(b) The overall amount for the second project will be DM 6.8 million, consisting of DM 4.8 million for cereals and DM 2 million for transportation costs. The country of purchase of the cereals (4,800 metric tons of rice) is Pakistan.

61. For technical cooperation projects DM 657,205,217 has been approved, of which DM 561,083,304 have been transferred until 30 June 1992.

62. Furthermore, the German Government made the following special contributions to multilateral organizations for humanitarian assistance to Somalia:

1991:	UNHCR	DM 1 million
	ICRC	DM 1 million
1992:	ICRC	DM 700,000

63. In addition, the following amounts were provided through German non-governmental organizations:

1991:	Somalia Society and others	DM 103,000
1992:	HELP (2,000 tent covers for Mogadishu)	DM 150,000

Ireland

64. The Government of Ireland has contributed to the efforts for humanitarian assistance to the population of Somalia in the form of cash grants to the following organizations:

1991	UNICEF: Emergency programme for mothers and children	£Ir 25,000
1992	UNICEF/WHO: Preventative care and supplementary feeding programmes for refugees and displaced persons (phase II of the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa)	£Ir 50,000
	Irish Red Cross Society: Emergency food and medical supplies	£Ir 25,000
	CONCERN: Essential medicines for supplementary feeding centres	£Ir 25,000
	GOAL: Essential drugs and medicines, Benadin Hospital, Mogadishu	£Ir 25,000

Japan

65. The Government of Japan has provided the following bilateral official development assistance to Somalia since December 1991:

(a) Food aid amounting to $1,226,880 disbursed through WFP and the International Emergency Food Reserve in January 1992;

(b) Grant aid of $600,000 (emergency relief assistance), extended through UNICEF in March 1992;

(c) Grant aid-in-kind (pharmaceuticals, blankets, tents and other materials) to Somalian refugees in Kenya in March 1992, valued at $136,434.

66. In addition, Japan provided the following assistance for the relief of Somalian refugees in neighbouring countries:

(a) A contribution of $298,619 for the general programme in Ethiopia and $149,309 for the general programme in Kenya, as part of a total contribution of $821,202 to the UNHCR general programme for African refugees made in March 1992;

(b) Food aid of $697 million to refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan.

New Zealand

67. In the current financial year, the New Zealand Government has contributed $NZ 250,000 through non-governmental organizations for the relief of children in the Horn of Africa, particularly Somalia.

Norway

68. The assistance of Norway to Somalia totals so far NKr 26.7 million, or about US$ 4.2 million, broken down as follows:

UNICEF: 100 tons of BP-5 biscuits (NKr 2,623,400)	$409,906
Norwegian Church Aid: 36 tons of BP-5 biscuits, emergency stocks (NKr 911,910)	$142,486
UNHCR: 8 Rubbhalls for an airlift of Somali refugees in Kenya (NKr 1,270,000)	$198,438
UNHCR: 8 Rubbhalls for the emergency programme in Kenya for, inter alia, Somali refugees (NKr 1,040,000)	$162,500

UNHCR: One field hospital (NORSHOP) unit for Mogadishu (NKr 2,325,790)	$363,405
Norwegian Red Cross/ICRC, cash contribution for relief operations in Mogadishu and Berbera (NKr 6,000,000)	$937,500
Norwegian Church Aid: 4 Rubbhalls, emergency stocks (NKr 520,000)	$81,250
Norwegian Peoples Aid: Mine-clearing project in northern Somalia (NKr 8,000,000)	$1,250,000
Norwegian Red Cross/ICRC: Emergency relief aid, medical and technical personnel (NKr 4,000,000)	$625,000

Pakistan

69. The Government of Pakistan has contributed US$ 25,000 to the United Nations humanitarian relief programme in Somalia.

Saudi Arabia

70. The Government of Saudi Arabia has donated $10 million in food items for those affected in Somalia. The first batch of this aid, around 4,300 tons of nutritional food (about 175,000 cartons, containing small boxes, each of which holds 10 kg of rice, 5 kg of sugar, 5 kg of flour, 3 litres of corn oil and a box of powdered milk of 1,800 grams) has been transported to the United Nations operation for the needy in Somalia. It is estimated that around 215,000 persons are benefiting from it. At the same time preparations are being made to send 1,700 tons of the second batch (around 60,000 packages).

Sweden

71. During fiscal year 1990/91 Somalia has received SKr 22.1 million of disaster relief assistance from the Government of Sweden. In fiscal year 1991/92, SKr 1.2 million was allocated to the Under-Secretary-General's mission. Additional assistance to Somalia has been given through the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa and other regional appeals. Since November 1991, SKr 186 million has been transferred to that Programme, as shown below:

UNHCR	SKr 33 million
WFP	SKr 65 million
UNICEF	SKr 45 million
FAO	SKr 12 million
WHO	SKr 4 million
UNV	SKr 1 million

The non-governmental organization Lutherhjälpen and Médecins sans Frontières have received SKr 23 million and 3 million, respectively, for operative assistance within the Special Emergency Programme. The ICRC regional appeal for Africa received SKr 46 million in 1991 and approximately 80 million for 1992. The UNHCR appeal for Africa received SKr 70 million in 1992. Large portions of these amounts are reserved for the Horn of Africa.

B. United Nations organizations

United Nations Children's Fund

72. Since December 1991, UNICEF has maintained a permanent presence in Mogadishu and re-established activities in various other parts of Somalia. In northern Somalia, several mother and child health centres had been reactivated and limited water resources and educational facilities restored. The murder of Dr. Marta Pumpalova in January 1992 forced the suspension of operations in the north-east as the security situation deteriorated. Despite the precarious working conditions, UNICEF continues to have the largest contingent of international staff of any United Nations agency on the ground in Somalia. The cease-fire in Mogadishu has made possible the distribution of emergency medical supplies and equipment to indigenous non-governmental organizations and other partners UNICEF has been working with. The 90-day Plan of Action is in effect and will be completed at the end of July. During the month of June the number of airlifts increased immensely, with over 300 tons of supplies delivered. UNICEF has recently expanded its operations to Kismayo and Baidoa.

United Nations Development Programme

73. Insecurity in the capital and throughout most of the country forced UNDP to suspend its development activities in 1992. UNDP has continued to operate its Emergency Unit in support of the work of the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia and is exploring ways in which it may help provide limited rehabilitation assistance in parts of the country that may be accessible. In this context it is providing air transportation and telecommunications service to the United Nations and non-governmental organization staff working in Somalia, and is cooperating with the European Economic Community, the United States Agency for International Development and UNICEF in the rehabilitation of the water supply system of Mogadishu.

United Nations Environment Programme

74. Prior to the escalation of the civil war, UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank had initiated efforts for the preparation of a national environmental action plan. This initiative will be intensified as soon as the situation makes it possible.

75. Somalia benefited from the various forms of assistance provided by UNEP to the Eastern Africa Subregional Environment Group, which is a grouping of the national directors of the environment in the eastern African subregion. Through the Group, subregional cooperation concerning the environment is being promoted. It also serves as a forum for assessing national environmental problems, actions being taken by individual Governments and for considering strategies for dealing with common environmental problems in eastern Africa.

76. Similar benefits derive from the cooperative activities of UNEP and the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development, which are largely in the area of desertification control in Somalia.

World Food Programme

77. Under the 90-day Plan of Action, WFP and ICRC are complementing each other's actions in order to obtain a food assistance coverage as complete as possible. WFP is concentrating its efforts on Mogadishu and the northern parts of Somalia using Mogadishu port and exploring the capacities of the ports of Zeila, Mait, Laskorey and Bossasso. ICRC is mainly aiming at addressing the needs in the southern parts and in the rural areas of the country from 18 different entry points.

78. The distribution modalities vary from free food distribution to offshore market sales schemes, depending on the regional particularities and the security conditions. In Mogadishu particularly, distribution has not been risk-free and monitoring has been difficult because of the proliferation of arms in the city. Deliveries of high value commodities have also increased insecurity.

79. WFP will provide 68,756 tons of food commodities at a total cost of about US$ 19 million. To date, 93 per cent of the requirements have been resourced. The food commodities are targeted to some 1.8 million persons who are located in Mogadishu and the north-west and north-east regions of Somalia.

80. WFP initiated air operations from Nairobi to Mogadishu in which some 258 tons of essential supplies such as UNIMIX, drugs and shelter materials were delivered to UNICEF between 26 February and 8 March 1992, utilizing Ilyushin-76 aircraft. The air operations have continued and to date 352 tons of essential supplies have been delivered to UNICEF from Nairobi, utilizing Antonov-12 aircraft.

81. In March 1992, WFP made a first attempt to enter the port of Mogadishu. The boat was shelled and had to return to Mombasa without being able to unload.

82. On 3 May 1992, the WFP chartered ship Felix arrived in Mogadishu port with 5,000 metric tons of relief wheat, enough to feed 1,270,000 persons in 15 districts for 10 days. The ship was the first to enter the port since 17 November 1991. This came about as the result of long, delicate and difficult negotiations which the United Nations conducted with the two parties through the Joint Committee for Relief Assistance.

83. On 5 May 1992 the delivery of food from the port to distribution centres around the divided city was initiated. Through the singular effort of WFP, joint food convoys involving trucks from opposing factions were able to deliver food to three districts in Mogadishu which straddle the frontlines, without incident. The operation has been considered to be a major success for the United Nations emergency programme in Mogadishu. The breakthrough allowed the first commercial food shipment to dock in Mogadishu on 19 May. ICRC ships are now also able to use Mogadishu's port facilities.

84. The arrival of the relief food was accompanied by a significant decrease in the prices of essential food items in Mogadishu markets. Preparatory work has started for the arrival at Mogadishu of the next consignment of 7,000 tons of wheat from Djibouti.

85. As regards northern Somalia, four critical areas will be addressed, namely, assistance to highly vulnerable groups, with emphasis on the displaced; assistance for promoting demobilization; community-based assistance to returnee-impacted areas; and emergency income-generation activities. Offshore market sales schemes administered by CARE International will provide the resources for the rehabilitation of the social services infrastructure. These programmes will be initiated once security arrangements are in place and the design of the modalities completed. Leaders in both north-west and north-east Somalia fully endorse the offshore sales mechanism.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

86. Since the beginning of 1991, Habitat has been actively consulting with the Somalia field office of UNDP, temporarily stationed at Nairobi, regarding the participation of the Centre in an inter-agency needs assessment mission to Somalia on specific areas, including basic infrastructure; upgrading, rehabilitation and improvement of shelter and other structures; institutional and municipal support; organization and management; training and capacity building; and environmental issues such as water supply and solid waste management.

87. In view of the breakdown in administration and the resulting volatile situation in Somalia the mission has been postponed.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

88. The FAO assessment of the food supply situation in Somalia was included in the consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Horn of Africa issued on 1 February 1992. The FAO Global Information and Early Warning System continues to monitor the food supply situation from a special office at Nairobi; direct in-country monitoring will be resumed when conditions permit the re-opening of the FAO office at Mogadishu.

89. Under the FAO technical cooperation programme project on assistance to the food security programme, phase I, a workshop was held at FAO headquarters for two weeks in February 1992 to discuss the various problems related to the food security situation in Somalia. This will be followed by another workshop in the country when the security situation improves.

90. Under the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, FAO has identified two project proposals in the field of agriculture and livestock rehabilitation for donor consideration. The proposals relate to (a) urgent provision of seeds and hand tools to restore agricultural productivity among the small-scale farmers of Somalia and (b) urgent provision of mobile polyclinics to arrest health deterioration in Somalia.

91. In the meantime, FAO has identified and is currently financing modest emergency projects involving provision of vegetable seeds, pesticides, farm tools and veterinary drugs and supplies to small holders and livestock herders as follows: (a) emergency supply of pesticides for vegetable crop protection; (b) emergency provision of seeds and hand tools to small holders in irrigated areas of north-west Somalia; (c) emergency assistance to control trypanosomiasis in Badhade district; (d) emergency disposal of old pesticides; and (e) emergency supply of veterinary drugs and supplies to northern Somalia.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

92. Since the ousting of the former regime in early 1991, UNHCR has no presence in southern Somalia following the evacuation for the second time of all United Nations staff from Mogadishu in April 1991. Since then, UNHCR has concentrated on resuming its presence and operations in north-west Somalia in anticipation of a mass voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from neighbouring Ethiopia.

93. Some 100,000 individuals were reported to have returned to the areas surrounding Hargeisa, Burao and Berbera. UNHCR re-established its office at Hargeisa in November 1991 to prepare for the returnee programme but the deteriorating security situation in north-west Somalia in April 1992 forced it temporarily to suspend its operations. In spite of the precarious security situation, preparations for the provision of relief items in the form of a one-time returnee package, comprising blankets, plastic sheeting for roofs, basic construction tools and water containers, continued during the period April 1991 to April 1992. UNHCR was also giving assistance in Hargeisa to some 450 military and civilian asylum-seekers from Ethiopia. The promotion of voluntary repatriation by UNHCR will depend on the evolution of the situation in Somalia and Ethiopia.

94. In addition to the provision of the one-time package to returnees, the UNHCR plan includes community-based projects for the rehabilitation of existing health, water, agriculture and education infrastructure. UNHCR has also contributed some $3 million to the mine-clearing operation in north-west Somalia in 1991 and 1992.

95. UNHCR is in the process of reviewing the present security situation in Somalia in close consultation with other concerned United Nations agencies and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in the hope of resuming its presence and implementing its planned returnee programme in north-west Somalia. UNHCR is fully committed to the implementation of the returnee/reintegration programme and it is for this that UNHCR and CARE International teams are in Djibouti awaiting security clearance to return to north-west Somalia.

World Health Organization

96. In 1991, WHO maintained its assistance to Somalia in spite of the withdrawal of its team of experts from the country by maintaining the team functioning in Nairobi and visiting the country whenever the situation permitted. Total WHO assistance amounted to US$ 2,513,000 from its regular budget, over $1 million of this sum being spent on the purchase of emergency supplies and medicines for dealing with the ongoing emergency in the country.

97. In the first five months of 1992, WHO allocation from its regular budget fund totalled $1,244,000. In addition, WHO obligated a total of $558,000 received from donors after the launching of a consolidated appeal under the auspices of the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa.

98. While this assistance has been instrumental in improving the health standards of the population affected by this emergency, it is not sufficient to meet the massive needs of the country.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/554
26 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 87 (b)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operation Lifeline Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 2	2
II.	CURRENT SITUATION IN THE SUDAN	3 - 9	2
III.	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN	10 - 24	3
IV.	REFUGEES	25 - 30	9
V.	RELIEF FOOD ASSISTANCE	31 - 32	10
VI.	NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE	33 - 49	10
VII.	ACTION TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES AND UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS	50 - 85	13
	A. Member States	51 - 61	14
	B. United Nations organizations	62 - 85	16

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/178 of 19 December 1991, on emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operation Lifeline Sudan, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Government of the Sudan, to continue to coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to help the Sudan in its emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, to mobilize resources for the implementation of those programmes and to keep the international community informed of the needs of that country. The Assembly also called upon the international community to contribute generously to the appeal made in the Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa.

2. The General Assembly further requested the Secretary-General to continue to assess the progress of the evolving emergency situation and to report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session on all matters connected with the implementation of emergency and relief operations in the Sudan. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

II. CURRENT SITUATION IN THE SUDAN

3. Since the last report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operation Lifeline Sudan (A/46/452 of 24 September 1991), there has been little improvement in the basic situation and the plight of those affected by drought, civil conflict and displacement has worsened.

4. It is estimated that in the 1991/92 season, agricultural production in mechanized and irrigated areas increased significantly; however, traditional rain-fed subsistence farming continued to suffer from drought, lack of inputs and instability. The overall food supply situation remains extremely difficult and in some areas critical (Darfur, Kordofan, Upper Nile, Bahr el-Ghazal, Central and Eastern States). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reports that rainfall this year is average to above average throughout most of the Sudan and prospects are for a good harvest. However, ongoing conflict in southern Sudan may still preclude normal agricultural activity. A crop assessment mission of FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP) is scheduled to visit the Sudan in mid-November.

5. In February 1992, the Government introduced radical economic reforms to liberalize the economy by replacing State control with market forces. The Sudanese pound was allowed to float against other currencies; prices were liberalized at the production, factory and distribution levels; and Government subsidies for bread, sugar, benzine and diesel were reduced. In order to mitigate the impact of price increases, the minimum wage of public and private sector employees was increased and a child benefit supplement introduced. In spite of some start-up difficulties, the programme seems to be succeeding in improving the basic economy of the country. However, there is still some concern that the rise in prices puts cereals beyond the reach of the urban poor.

6. In spite of concerns expressed by the international community, the Government has pursued a policy of relocating squatters and displaced persons from Khartoum to sites on the periphery of the city, the furthest being 40 km distant. It is estimated that approximately 700,000 people have already been moved and the full dimension of the programme has not been clarified. In the absence of adequate preparation, the relocation centres lack adequate food, water, health and sanitation services as well as shelter and employment opportunities.

7. The situation for the increasing numbers of newly displaced people, returnees and other war-affected people has become desperate. The last 12 months have witnessed the return of some 270,000 refugees from Ethiopia in the Upper Nile region; the fractioning of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which has led to large-scale fighting in the southern part of the Upper Nile region, forcing more than 200,000 people to flee their homes; and an intensified Government offensive which has led to active conflict in Upper Nile, eastern Equatoria and many parts of Bahr el-Ghazal. It is estimated that approximately 900,000 people are now in need of relief assistance in southern Sudan.

8. The situation in other areas is no less critical. Large numbers of displaced persons have fled to southern Darfur, southern Kordofan and the Upper Nile area. Many came from Bahr el-Ghazal, fleeing from insecurity and the loss of crops caused by heavy rains and flooding. Approximately 50,000 people from the Nuba mountains have been displaced because of military actions in the area and many of these have been moved to the northern part of the region.

9. The resolution of the civil conflict in the Sudan remains key to resolving the plight of the people in the Sudan. Peace talks between the Government and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) were convened on 25 May 1992 in Nigeria under the auspices of the President of Nigeria in his capacity also as President of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). While a cease-fire was not agreed upon, the joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of the meeting committed the participants to continued talks, and consultations to that end are taking place. In the meantime, however, there has been no diminution in the conflict.

III. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN

Consolidated inter-agency appeals

10. Emergency requirements for the Sudan, including requirements for Operation Lifeline Sudan, have been reflected in the consolidated inter-agency appeals for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa launched by the Secretary-General in January and July 1992. Urgent requirements identified in those appeals totalled $281.5 million. As at 21 September, the shortfall in response to these requirements totalled $130.1 million.

11. An FAO/WFP assessment mission of November 1991 estimated that some 5.2 million drought-affected persons and 1.9 million displaced persons would require food assistance in 1992. Taking into consideration the distribution capacity and the emergency food needs that the Government of the Sudan could reasonably and realistically meet from in-country production in the good harvest areas, 1992 requirements for imported emergency food aid were assessed at 745,000 metric tons. As at June 1992, 265,254 tons had been pledged by donors (see table 1). In addition, 143,500 tons were carried over from 1991, making the total contributions to the 1992 emergency relief operations 408,754 tons, or 54.7 per cent of requirements.

Table 1. Summary of donor food pledges, June 1992

Country/organization	Metric tons
United States of America	114 690
European Economic Community	113 839
United Kingdom	25 000
Canada	6 750
Australia	3 400
Finland	1 075
Denmark	500

12. With respect to non-food aid, table 2 shows proposed areas of intervention, estimated 1992 requirements and shortfalls as at 30 June 1992. The importance of the non-food aid component of humanitarian assistance efforts in the Sudan cannot be overemphasized and donors are urged to respond to the identified needs.

Table 2. Non-food aid: 1992 requirements and shortfalls

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Activity	1992 requirements	Shortfall at 30 June 1992
Health (UNICEF)	9 489	6 699
Water supply and sanitation (UNICEF)	6 039	3 469
Relief/shelter for displaced (UNICEF)	1 988	1 565
Nutritional assistance (UNICEF)	-2 096	1 592
Education inputs (UNICEF)	754	624
Malaria control (WHO)	3 000	2 576
Tuberculosis control (WHO)	1 780	1 646
Prevention of meningitis (WHO)	1 000	1 000
Emergency health delivery (WHO)	1 900	1 900
Emergency Preparedness (WHO)	253	253
Fishing gear (FAO)	1 500	1 500
Animal drugs and vaccines (FAO)	1 500	1 500
Agricultural hand tools (FAO)	2 400	1 560
Seeds, tools and technical assistance (FAO)	530	530
Emergency Unit (UNDP)	4 210	2 810
TOTAL	38 430	29 224

Operation Lifeline Sudan

13. The Government of the Sudan announced its relief policy for 1992 in February following the same guidelines as the 1991 relief policy. The principal provisions of the policy are that (a) relief aid allocated to States shall become the property of the State Relief Committees, which will be responsible for the allocation and reallocation of relief aid among regions within the concerned State; however, the desire of the concerned donor is to be taken into consideration; (b) the Government reaffirms its commitment to exempt relief aid from customs and duties, including any local duties of fees; (c) WFP shall continue to coordinate the inflow of relief aid to Port Sudan and help in its handling, as well as coordinate internal transport in collaboration with the Higher National Committee for Transportation; (d) arrangements will be made for donors to purchase part of relief needs (dura) in foreign currency up to a maximum of 100,000 tons. Purchasing shall be through the Agricultural Bank of Sudan.

14. In September 1992, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs visited the Sudan and held high-level discussions with the Government on means of improving the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The joint statement issued at the conclusion of that meeting reflects the following areas of agreement:

> "The Government of the Sudan reaffirmed its commitment to the principles of Operation Lifeline Sudan as a landmark in humanitarian assistance. The Government of the Sudan and the United Nations also reiterated their firm support for the Addis Ababa Declaration on Humanitarian Issues. Within the framework of those principles, the Government of Sudan and the United Nations reaffirmed the critical importance of access to all people in need of humanitarian assistance wherever they may be, respect for the neutrality of relief operations and the fundamental necessity for transparency. Agreement was reached on the following points:
>
> "1. The Government of the Sudan and the United Nations reviewed the operation of Operational Lifeline Sudan and agreed that effective mechanisms would be devised to provide prompt and effective humanitarian assistance, taking into account developments which would provide more means of implementation and the possibility of the increased utilization of food from national production.
>
> "2. The Government of the Sudan and the United Nations reconfirmed the responsibility of the Government in providing overall coordination of emergency relief assistance as set out in the Addis Ababa Declaration on Humanitarian Issues. The Government requested the United Nations to coordinate all relief assistance to populations in conflict-affected areas.

"3. The United Nations will endeavour to review its overall relief operations in the Sudan, including its office at Nairobi, with a view to enhancing overall operational coherence and effectiveness. The United Nations will also take the necessary measures to ensure that information is made available in a timely fashion to the Government of the Sudan.

"4. The Government of the Sudan will endeavour to streamline relevant governmental bodies and to review its coordination mechanisms, with a view to ensuring that emergency issues can be expeditiously addressed and resolved.

"5. The Government of the Sudan commits itself to providing the United Nations with access to all populations in need wherever they may be and to expediting procedures for the prompt and effective distribution of relief assistance within the framework of its sovereignty. The Government of the Sudan offered the use of corridors for the prompt delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance ...

"6. The Government of the Sudan recognizes the useful role of non-governmental organizations in addressing humanitarian needs in the Sudan. The Government will intensify its efforts to facilitate the necessary procedures in order to expedite the entry, travel and work of non-governmental organizations, undertaken with full observance of national policies and laws.

"7. Agreement was reached on the need for the support of the United Nations and the international community to facilitate the voluntary return of Sudanese refugees and the voluntary repatriation of refugees from the neighbouring countries in the Sudan.

"8. The Government of the Sudan and the United Nations urged that special attention be given to protect minors caught up in conflict situations and the unaccompanied minor refugees in neighbouring countries. Both pledged to make every effort to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reuniting of unaccompanied minors with their families.

"9. Both parties agreed that a concerted effort must be made, including the effective mobilization of resources, to support the transition from relief to recovery, rehabilitation and development in the Sudan, in the spirit of General Assembly resolution 46/182.

"10. The United Nations will appoint a special emissary for follow-up with the Government and to ensure that timely assistance is provided to all those in need throughout the country."

15. Agreement was also reached on the distribution of humanitarian assistance on two river corridors and to 21 destinations for air operation.

16. The Under-Secretary-General also met with representatives of the Torit and Nasir factions of SPLM to discuss the activities of Operation Lifeline Sudan in southern Sudan.

Operation Lifeline Sudan activities

17. After the arrival of 270,000 returnees to the Sobat basin and Pochalla in June 1992, Operation Lifeline Sudan committed almost all its resources to assisting the 150,000 who moved along the Sobat and the 20,000 at Pakok, while the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) did the same for the 100,000 at Pochalla. With significant non-governmental collaboration, reception centres were set up, returnees registered and relief and basic services were provided, including deliveries of WFP food supplies by airlift from Lokichokio, Kenya, airdrop from both Lokichokio and Khartoum, and barge from Kosti. In a highly effective collaborative effort by WFP, The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), returnees were assisted during the first months after their arrival and their eventual resettlement facilitated. One particularly disadvantaged group of Uduk- and Maban-speaking peoples from Blue Nile province were the last to leave Nasir; their settlement at Maiwut and return to homes in the Daga valley in April 1992 represents a successful completion of the emergency phase of the Sobat returnee relocation. ICRC also facilitated repatriation or resettlement of most of the returnees who came through Pochalla.

18. The southern operations of Operation Lifeline Sudan had expanded between January 1991 and January 1992, involving the collaboration of over 24 non-governmental organizations operating out of Kenya and Uganda. Remote locations were reached, new overland routes into Bahr el-Ghazal opened up and health, water, household food security and feeding programmes started across most of southern Sudan. With the continuing rift in SPLA and the recapture of many southern towns by the Government of the Sudan, the first months of 1992 saw considerable changes in the operation. Humanitarian agencies are finding it increasingly difficult to provide assistance to needy populations in all areas affected by hostilities, while access to them is much more arbitrary. United Nations flights were suspended for two months because of lack of clearance by all parties concerned, but flights to certain locations resumed in June 1992.

19. By mid-June 1992, the Operation's international presence in the southern areas had been reduced because of insecurity or inaccessibility, WFP air operations were continuing into SPLA-held areas in Upper Nile and a few garrison towns and WFP overland convoys were either moving through Uganda to the parts of Equatoria currently accessible or via the Nile routes.

20. After the factional fighting in the Bor-Kongor area, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations rapidly established relief in the form of food deliveries, feeding centres and medical services in December 1991. Malnourishment rates were very high and over 6,000 children were receiving supplementary foods from UNICEF. However, these activities had to be abandoned in January 1992 owing to the increased insecurity resulting from the hostilities between the Government of the Sudan and SPLA. By March 1992 about half of those who had been identified around Bor moved south and encamped at Ame south of Torit, where once more relief operations were initiated for their

assistance. In September 1992, two UNICEF staff members, a nurse working for an international non-governmental organization and a freelance journalist were killed while on mission in the area. The Secretary-General has ordered a full investigation of this incident. In the meantime, relief activities in the area have been suspended pending clarification of security conditions.

21. The 12,500 unaccompanied children and some 6,000 others who fled ahead of the fighting at Pochalla were camped at Narus where they were assisted by a multi-agency team to build a camp, provide water and organize health, food and temporary schooling, ICRC undertook tracing activities to be prepared to escort the children when all opposing groups would permit the children to return to their homes. Now rendered refugees in northern Kenya, they are being assisted under the coordination of UNHCR. Of the 2,000 unaccompanied children at Nasir, some 150 were repatriated by ICRC to western Upper Nile, while the others remain in a camp near the town.

22. When the Government of the Sudan announced its intention to move people displaced to Khartoum out of the city, members of the international community expressed their concern with the policy, the selection of relocation sites and with the destruction of homes prior to adequate preparation of new sites. While calling for a halt in further large-scale relocation programmes, donors have expressed their readiness to assist the Government in discharging its responsibilities towards those affected. While not condoning the Government's policy, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations have responded to the needs of the displaced by providing immediate emergency assistance. UNICEF has provided supplementary food, water and medicine and undertaken immunization activities. WFP has supplied food for general distribution and national and international non-governmental organizations continue to assist with emergency health, sanitation and feeding programmes. In March 1992, the Council of Ministers approved the World Bank-funded Khartoum structure plan, which outlines viable actions various government authorities should take as regards the displaced and squatter problem. In addition, the United Nations had developed medium-term and long-term proposals which include a project to improve urban management formulated to develop and demonstrate techniques and processes of residential area development, improvement and resettlement. The project, coordinated by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), is in the process of development. A comprehensive study will be undertaken to explore means of facilitating the self-repatriation or voluntary return of displaced persons to their areas of origin.

23. Activities initiated for the displaced in southern Darfur and southern Kordofan include pre-positioning of food, rehabilitation of water sources and provision of necessary medicines and shelter materials before the onset of rains when roads become impassable.

24. On 18 July, airlift operations to Juba were suspended for security reasons. By mid-August, it became clear that at least 300,000 men, women and children faced the threat of imminent starvation, all innocent victims of the continuing hostilities between the Government and SPLM. Given this desperate situation, airlift relief operations to Juba were relaunched on 20 August. In

spite of temporary suspensions, mainly for security reasons, this operation is continuing. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs visited Juba during his mission to the Sudan in September.

IV. REFUGEES

25. The end of May 1991 saw an influx into the Kassala area of eastern Sudan of over 50,000 military personnel and their dependants who fled Asmara and Keren in Ethiopia with the fall of the Mengistu regime. In collaboration with the Government of the Sudan and non-governmental organizations, UNHCR deployed an emergency task force into the area and medical, food and non-food supplies were diverted from ongoing programmes. After assurances of safety were given by the transitional Government of Ethiopia, an airlift operation began in July 1991 and by the end of November 50,945 people were returned to Ethiopia.

26. Negotiations on repatriation of Eritrean refugees in the Sudan have been under way with the Government of the Sudan and the provisional Government of Eritrea since December 1991. UNHCR is advocating the immediate implementation of small-scale support groups for organized returns. Proposals for an information campaign on the plans for voluntary repatriation of the refugees, as well as a socio-economic survey of the refugee population, have been discussed. However, the Eritrean authorities prefer a global approach, with a full assessment of needs.

27. A voluntary repatriation operation for Ugandan refugees took place in January and February 1992. Ugandan refugees at Juba were repatriated on the return flights of WFP chartered aircraft which were carrying food from Entebbe to Juba. The final flight took place on 21 February, and a total of 2,709 people were returned home.

28. As a result of political developments in Ethiopia in May 1991, a group of Ethiopian refugees fled across from western Ethiopia into the Nasir area of south-eastern Sudan. In February 1992, 102 of them were voluntarily repatriated back to Jima in western Ethiopia. The operation was carried out in two airlifts, using a WFP aircraft flying food into the Nasir area from Lokichokio in Kenya.

29. The voluntary repatriation operation for the return of some 3,000 out of 20,000 Chadian refugees in the refugee camps in the west of Sudan to Ouaddai and Biltine provinces in eastern Chad was completed in May 1992. Owing to delays in the finalization of the plan of operations, registration commenced one month later than anticipated. In that time, the security situation on the Chadian side of the border deteriorated, and plans to return the refugees to their home areas in time for the planting season were affected. It is planned to recommence the repatriation at the end of June 1992 to assist the remainder of the 12,000 refugees who had initially expressed the wish to return.

30. Some 447 Sudanese refugees in the Central African Republic have registered with UNHCR for voluntary repatriation to the Sudan. They are

located at M'boki, some 1,200 km from the capital Bangui. A French military aircraft has been made available for this operation, conditional on the operational costs being borne from other sources. It is planned to commence the operation to return the refugees to Khartoum by mid-June 1992.

V. RELIEF FOOD ASSISTANCE

31. The late arrival of food donated to the 1992 relief operation constrained WFP and non-governmental organization ability to pre-position food in affected areas early in 1992. It was not until the month of May that the first ship arrived in Port Sudan carrying 1992 food aid. In April, WFP deliveries to drought-affected areas in the north were reduced because of lack of food stocks in the country. However, the situation improved in May and June with the arrival of additional shipments and deliveries from local purchases of grain. In southern Sudan, the ban on grain exports from Kenya and Uganda has limited the option for WFP to procure food in those countries for delivery to affected areas throughout the south. By mid-June 1992, WFP had moved 113,000 tons from Port Sudan to primary centres, from where non-governmental organizations, working under the authority of State Relief Committees, had been able to move more than 97,000 tons to secondary destinations. Through Kenya and Uganda WFP moved 11,000 tons to southern Sudan. In addition to overland deliveries, complex air and barge operations were undertaken to deliver both food and non-food items to areas otherwise inaccessible by road. Since the beginning of the year, WFP has delivered 235 tons by barge to Nasir, and 1,250 tons to Malakal. In addition, airlift operations delivered 868 tons to Geneina, 1,217 tons to Wau, 5,130 tons to Juba via Khartoum and Entebbe and a total of 1,015 tons to Nasir, Akobo and Waat.

32. Despite the absence of a formal agreement between the Government of the Sudan, the SPLA factions and the United Nations, Operation Lifeline Sudan operated successfully in 1991, working under ad hoc agreements. The United Nations and non-governmental organizations managed to deliver almost 70,000 tons of food relief to southern Sudan: more than 42,690 tons to SPLA-held areas and 26,797 tons to government-held areas. For the first time since 1984, the Sobat river route was opened and WFP barges delivered supplies to the Government town of Malakal and to the SPLA-held area of Nasir. Road convoys from Uganda and Kenya delivered 6,908 tons to areas in southern Sudan.

VI. NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE

33. UNICEF continued a wide range of non-food activities throughout the accessible areas of the Sudan, including newly opened areas like Bentiu in Upper Nile, which had not seen relief assistance since 1985. It has also responded with supplementary food, essential drugs, shelter materials and emergency water interventions to provide immediate relief assistance to the massive influx of displaced persons into southern Darfur and southern Kordofan in April and May 1992. Despite frequent suspensions of relief flights in both the northern and southern sectors, relief assistance reached a significant

percentage of vulnerable groups. This assistance included health services, with special attention to immunization, control of diarrhoeal diseases, provision of essential drugs, nutrition including supplementary feeding and household food security, as well as water supply, sanitation, basic education, relief and shelter.

34. UNICEF health and nutrition interventions focused on emergency action to reduce mortality and morbidity through critical curative services closely linked to preventive health care, provision of life-saving essential drugs, immunization, crash training of health personnel, promotion of oral rehydration therapy and health education of mothers and children, supplementary feeding of vulnerable children and pregnant women and breast-feeding mothers, while providing them with high energy food, vitamins A and C, iron and folic acid. Materials and equipment for feeding centres and to carry out nutrition surveillance were also provided. Region-specific country-wide nutrition surveys were funded.

35. Of the estimated 7.6 million people affected in 1991, about 5.4 million are in the northern States, while 2.3 million are in the southern states. From November 1991 to February 1992, large-scale relocations of the displaced took place to the periphery of Khartoum and in April and May 1992, 115,000 displaced reached the transition zone in southern Kordofan and southern Darfur and are now in and around towns like Abyei, Meiram, Kadugli and Ed Daien, towns totally unprepared and without the resources to cope with such a massive and continuing influx. Such unexpected, large-scale concentrations of the destitute have made planning and provision of assistance to scattered and inaccessible locations fraught with logistical and other difficulties.

36. To prevent epidemics and minimize mortality in malnourished children among the concentrations of displaced, the age of immunization was increased from 0-1 years to 0-5 years of age. An estimated 1.4 million children and 1.8 million women of child-bearing age were identified as beneficiaries. In the drought- and conflict-affected areas of Darfur and southern Kordofan, 50 per cent of the children were immunized. Among the displaced in Khartoum, 65 per cent of the children were immunized. In garrison towns like Wau, Juba and Malakal, high coverage rates were achieved by the end of 1991. However, sporadic air accessibility to the garrison towns during the first half of 1992 has depleted vaccine and syringe and needle stocks and prevented regular cold chain monitoring. Cattle vaccination through Lokichokio boosted the child immunization coverage in conflict areas.

37. In the almost total absence of drug imports by the government and commercial sectors, UNICEF has inevitably become the major provider of essential drugs. Timely pre-positioning and delivery of essential life-saving drugs to affected areas has been the main activity. However, because of funding constraints only 306 out of 13,000 and 357 out of 1,300 supplementary drug kits necessary for the 7.6 million affected people were distributed.

38. It was estimated early in 1991 that over a million children under five years of age in the affected areas were at risk of increased morbidity and

mortality from diarrhoeal diseases. To avert epidemics in these areas, UNICEF, in collaboration with the national programme for the control of diarrhoeal disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) and non-governmental organizations, developed a contingency emergency preparedness plan in July 1991. Under that plan, 100 oral rehydration therapy corners, where mothers are instructed in oral rehydration techniques and provided with oral rehydration salts, were established. Six million sachets of salts have been distributed, providing coverage for the estimated one million children. Essential emergency supplies like intravenous fluids, drugs and basic equipment were pre-positioned to cope with any serious outbreak of diarrhoeal disease. As a result, an imminent threat of cholera in Darfur from across the Chad border was averted.

39. Training in emergency health interventions of 430 key health personnel has been completed and 2,300 health workers and volunteers are undergoing training in 19 high-risk provinces. To ensure continuous vigilance and rapid response, the surveillance system is being strengthened through upgrading of communications equipment. A further 100 oral rehydration therapy corners are being established in high risk areas and additional stocks of oral rehydration salts and other essential supplies have been ordered.

40. Working closely with local and international non-governmental organizations, UNICEF has focused on the improvement of the nutritional status of 312,700 vulnerable children under five years old. One hundred and twenty supplementary feeding centres and over 700 dry UNIMIX distribution points have been established, over 700 feeding centre workers trained, 4,575 tons of UNIMIX, sufficient for 190,000 malnourished children for four months, have been distributed, and 2 million capsules of vitamin A provided. High energy biscuits were provided to malnourished children in Upper Nile, Bahr el-Ghazal and Equatoria and over 100 tons of UNIMIX was airdropped or flown into Nasir when the returnees crossed the Ethiopian border.

41. Production capacity of UNIMIX has been stepped up from 8 tons to 40 tons per day, through the importation of machinery. This has enabled the production of greatly increased quantities of high-energy supplementary food. However, of the 2,712 tons needed in the first half of 1992, only 1,256 tons has been distributed, because of the late arrival of raw materials and funding constraints.

42. A monitoring mechanism for nutritional status has been established to target assistance to priority areas. Support to health authorities to conduct regular region-specific nutrition surveys has been provided; nine such surveys have been completed, revealing malnutrition rates from 15 per cent to 38 per cent. These rates are likely to deteriorate as the year progresses and the harvest is consumed, while the affected population does not have the purchasing power to buy staple cereals.

43. UNICEF provided water and sanitation to a targeted 510,000 drought- and war-displaced persons in Kordofan, Darfur, Eastern, Central and Khartoum States. Water and sanitation activities in Upper Nile, Equatoria and Bahr

el-Ghazal States were carried out by the southern operations of Operation Lifeline Sudan from Lokichokio and by UNICEF offices in the southern garrison towns of Wau, Juba and Malakal.

44. In Kordofan, 700 handpumps were installed serving 140,000 people and 3,100 ventilated improved latrines and 30 six-seated school latrines were constructed, serving 27,700 persons. To disseminate hygiene and health messages to 200,000 villagers, 228 village health committees were formed. In 200 villages, 418 pump mechanics were trained, and 112 home-gardens were established near new handpumps, providing income for village women.

45. In Gedarief, Durdeib, Toker and Halayed in Eastern State, 11 submersible pumps were installed, serving 20,000 people. Four open dug wells were excavated and two 5,000-gallon concrete water tanks constructed, serving 10,000 people.

46. Geophysical investigation of 100 sites at Dinder, Damazine, Singa and Sennar in Central State has started and special drilling equipment and consumables required for this area have been ordered.

47. In Khartoum, 360 handpumps were installed, serving 180,000 people. However, displaced populations around 290 of these handpumps have been relocated, rendering them infructuous. Since January, the water trucking operations of a non-governmental organization providing 275,000 litres daily to a new camp for displaced persons are being supported.

48. Distribution of seeds and agricultural tools has been carried out by FAO, UNICEF and various non-governmental organizations. As a result of the February appeal for the Special Emergency Programme in the Horn of Africa, FAO received sufficient funds to supply 3,158 metric tons of millet seed and 639 tons of sorghum seed. FAO has also provided vegetable seeds and hand tools to the southern region. Save the Children Fund of the United Kingdom has supplied Darfur State with 4,000 tons of millet seed, and 50 tons of UNDP-funded maize seed has been delivered to Juba.

49. Plastic sheeting sufficient for 3,500 families and 20,000 blankets were distributed through non-governmental organizations to the displaced persons newly relocated in Khartoum, Kosti, Dilling, Kadugli and Meiram.

VII. ACTION TAKEN BY MEMBER STATES AND UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS

50. In addition to the activities described above, several Member States and United Nations organizations have provided information on action taken in compliance with General Assembly resolution 46/178.

A. Member States

Denmark

51. Danish emergency assistance to the Sudan in 1991 amounted to DKr 2 million, of which 1 million was channelled through the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) and 1 million through Danish non-governmental organizations.

Germany

52. In 1992 the German Government will support two food aid projects in the Sudan. The overall amount of the first project will be DM 185,400, consisting of DM 176,400 for non-cereals and DM 9,000 for the cost of transportation. The overall amount of the second project will be DM 816,908, consisting of DM 503,201 for non-cereals and DM 313,707 for the transportation costs. The country of purchase for the non-cereals is Uganda.

53. Furthermore, the German Government made the following special contributions to multilateral organizations for humanitarian assistance to the Sudan:

		DM
1991:	UNHCR	1 million
	UNICEF	1 million
1992:	ICRC	1 million

54. In addition, the following amounts were provided by German non-governmental organizations:

		DM
1991:	German Red Cross	1 082 500
	Diakonisches Werk	1 000 000
	German-Arabic-Society	13 000
1992:	Human I	2 162
	Human I	2 340
	Africa in Need	185 000

Indonesia

55. In order to support the efforts of the Sudan to alleviate the problems of displaced persons and to respond to the appeal made in the consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, the Government of Indonesia has contributed US$ 10,000, presented to the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations on 4 June 1992.

Norway

56. Norway's assistance to the Sudan for natural disaster relief was as follows:

	Norwegian kroner
UNICEF: 100 metric tons of BP-5 biscuits	2 623 400
Norwegian Church Aid: 45 tons BP-5 biscuits, emergency stocks	1 186 213
Norwegian Save the Children (Redd Barna): purchase of food (unspecified)	1 785 000
WFP: 8 Rubbhalls	1 000 000
Norwegian Church Aid: 4 Rubbhalls, emergency stocks	500 000
Norwegian Church Aid: cash contribution for relief aid programme in Juba	9 875 000
Norwegian Red Cross/ICRC: emergency relief aid to internal refugees in southern Sudan, medical and technical personnel	2 000 000
Norwegian Red Cross: emergency relief operations	1 000 000
Norwegian Peoples Aid: emergency relief operations	4 000 000

Poland

57. During the present academic year there are 108 students from the Sudan in Poland. The annual cost of education of one student is US$ 4,000.

Republic of Korea

58. During 1991, the Government of the Republic of Korea provided the Sudan with emergency humanitarian food assistance (1,000 tons of rice) and medical goods, at a total value of US$ 610,000.

Sweden

59. During fiscal year 1990/91 Sweden allocated SKr 63,378,000 to the Sudan for disaster relief and reconstruction. Other forms of disaster-related

assistance amounted to approximately SKr 20 million. Concerning disaster relief during fiscal year 1991/92, approximately SKr 7,529,000 has been allocated.

Turkey

60. Turkey has signed a technical assistance agreement with the Sudan and made a financial contribution of $2,215,000 to a project for the construction of a 50-bed hospital. Construction of the hospital is to begin in 1992.

61. In addition, seven representatives from the Sudan have participated in group training programmes in Turkey, in which all their expenses were met by the Turkish Agency for Cooperation.

B. United Nations organizations

United Nations Children's Fund

62. In response to the large-scale needs created by drought, displacement and conflict in the Sudan, UNICEF has continued to implement programmes of child immunization, rehabilitation of basic services, production of high protein foods and implementation of basic water and sanitation programmes. In the south, projects in both Government-held and rebel-held territories have included the provision of seeds, tools, medical, educational and supplementary food supplies, as well as shelter and other relief materials. Through the special role of UNICEF as part of Operation Lifeline Sudan, it was possible to reach children caught behind the firing lines in southern Sudan.

World Food Programme

63. Because of the limited response from donors, the 1991 Sudan emergency operation was started late, towards the end of March. The overall emergency food needs, which were originally estimated at 1.2 million tons, were revised to 785,000 tons in the September 1991 appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa. At the end of 1991, 719,400 tons were contributed, representing 92 per cent of revised needs. The quantity of food delivered to the Sudan amounted to 672,000 tons, or 86 per cent of the revised needs, including some 55,800 tons of 1990 carry-over stocks delivered during 1991.

64. Although food production in the mechanized and irrigated areas increased significantly in 1992, the traditional subsistence farming areas have not recovered. The Government is committed to making 100,000 tons of cereals available for local purchase to support ongoing relief operations. Some 47,000 tons have been purchased so far by WFP and the European Economic Community. It is hoped that additional funds will be made available to purchase the remaining 53,000 tons. The obstacles that relief agencies have

to contend with include not only the continuing civil strife, but also inaccessibility to many areas because of restrictions imposed by the Government of the Sudan and SPLA. Despite these constraints, WFP, in collaboration with the non-governmental organizations, has been able to prevent large-scale starvation by delivering food aid to the affected areas by a combination of road, airlift and barge operations.

65. The appeal in February 1992 for the Special Emergency Programme estimated emergency food needs at 745,000 tons. As at 30 June 1992, about 285,400 tons have been pledged. Taking into account the 1991 carry-over stock of 143,500 tons, a total of 428,900 tons have been made available for distribution in 1992. The additional requirements for the second half of 1992 are 97,700 tons of cereals, 38,100 tons of vegetable oil, 3,810 tons of sugar, and 2,110 tons of dried skim milk. These significant quantities of non-cereals are required because the 1992 shipments and carry-over stocks consisted mainly of cereals.

66. WFP will continue to be responsible for the overall coordination of emergency food aid and for the receipt, clearance, port handling and primary transport of relief shipments on behalf of all agencies involved in the 1992 Sudan emergency operation. Non-governmental organizations will continue to be responsible for the secondary transport to distribution sites and for distribution itself to the beneficiaries. Deliveries to southern Sudan will continue to be made within the framework of Operation Lifeline Sudan.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

67. In March 1992, Habitat carried out a preliminary appraisal-cum-identification mission, focusing on the needs of vulnerable groups, notably the squatters of Khartoum and displaced persons. A follow-up needs assessment mission related to displaced persons and squatters was carried out in two stages during April and May 1992.

68. On the basis of the findings of those missions, a Habitat project will be elaborated shortly with a focus on:

(a) Addressing the shelter needs of those living in squatter settlements or on sites earmarked for clearance;

(b) Upgrading and supplementing the basic services at the relocation sites to a minimum level of acceptability;

(c) Development of employment-generating activities.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

69. During the period under review, UNHCR provided assistance to some 300,000 Ethiopian refugees living in 20 rural settlements and six reception centres in

eastern Sudan. In addition, some 20,000 Chadians living in three rural settlements in Darfur were provided with food. It is estimated that another 700,000 Ethiopian refugees were spontaneously settled along the eastern border of the Sudan with Ethiopia and in major urban areas. UNHCR assistance to the Ethiopian refugees in the organized settlements consisted of regular care and maintenance, including health, education, logistics, physical infrastructure, water and sanitation and agriculture, as well as administrative support, while full food rations were provided by WFP. Unfortunately, climatic conditions did not enable the refugees in the rural settlements to grow sufficient food and UNHCR and WFP were compelled to provide full food rations both in the settlements and in the reception centres.

70. During the second half of 1991, UNHCR, in coordination with the Governments of the Sudan and Ethiopia, repatriated by airlift some 50,000 ex-soldiers of the former Ethiopian regime who had fled from garrisons in Eritrea into the Kassala area of the Sudan. In Ethiopia, this group, which also included a small number of civilians and dependants, was received by ICRC, which assisted them to return to their places of origin. UNHCR expenditure for this operation amounted to some $10,000.

71. A plan of operation to repatriate some 12,000 of the total of 20,000 Chadians was prepared at the beginning of 1992. By the end of May 1992, some 3,000 had been repatriated. The remaining 9,000 of those registered for return chose to stay in the Sudan because of the unclear security situation in Chad and the late start of the operation, which meant that most of the refugees had prepared their land for the next harvest. It is expected that UNHCR will resume the repatriation of the remaining Chadians by the end of 1992 after the harvest.

72. With the changing political situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea, UNHCR started discussions with the Sudanese and Eritrean authorities on the procedures for a large-scale organized repatriation of Eritreans, including the registration, transportation by road, reception in Eritrea and integration of an estimated 250,000 returnees. In view of the massive destruction of Eritrea during a long civil war, the country, including the areas to which refugees will return, needs major infrastructural assistance to make the successful integration of large numbers of returnees possible. Such a rehabilitation/developmental programme is clearly beyond the mandate of UNHCR. Discussions and negotiations coordinated by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are taking place with the other United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the provisional Government of Eritrea, to establish the programme and responsibility for its implementation. Pending the start of the large-scale organized repatriation, UNHCR has agreed to assist the provisional Government of Eritrea with its reception and integration of limited numbers of people who return spontaneously from the Sudan to Eritrea.

73. With the change of regime in Ethiopia, some 200,000 Sudanese refugees accommodated in camps in western Ethiopia were forced to return to the Sudan. UNHCR contributed some $1 million to cover non-food items, logistic support

and staff to Operation Lifeline Sudan, the lead agency to assist needy populations in southern Sudan, including the returnees.

United Nations Environment Programme

74. During the reporting period, cooperation by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was extended in the following areas:

Environmental education and training

75. A fellowship was provided by UNEP (US$ 1,200) to enable a government expert to participate in the work of the Second Conference of the African Soil Science Society.

Environmental legislation and machinery

76. UNEP initiated actions to review the adequacy of current institutional arrangements and also to harmonize existing sectoral laws on the environment, with a view to putting in place comprehensive national environmental legislation.

Desertification control

77. Existing cooperation in the implementation of national projects to combat desertification continued during the reporting period.

Institute of Environmental Studies

78. Cooperation between UNEP and the Institute of Environmental Studies (IES) is being promoted largely within the framework of the Cairo Programme of Action of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN). IES serves as a centre of excellence of the AMCEN Network on Environmental Education and Training, whose membership is drawn from African national institutions active in this area.

79. Through the Cairo Programme of Action, Sudan's institutions participate in the seven other regional technical cooperation networks in priority subject areas essential to environmental rehabilitation and management, namely, environmental monitoring; climatology; water resources; energy; soils and fertilizers; genetic resources; science and technology.

Subregional level

80. Through the cooperative activities of UNEP with the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, Sudan's natural resources management efforts, especially in the area of desertification, receive additional impetus and support.

81. Sudan is a member of the Eastern African Subregional Environment Group (EASREG), one of five such groups established and sponsored by UNEP for promoting subregional cooperation concerning the environment. EASREG is a grouping of heads of national environmental departments or institutions and provides a forum for identifying country-specific environmental problems as well as environmental issues requiring subregional cooperation. The work of EASREG, which is fully supported by UNEP, has had a positive impact on environmental management in the region.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

82. Crop and food supply assessment missions to the Sudan were fielded jointly by FAO and WFP in November-December 1991, and the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) assessed the wheat crop in April 1992. In addition to the special reports of the findings of the missions issued in December 1991 and May 1992, FAO provided input to the consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Horn of Africa issued on 1 February 1992. GIEWS continues to monitor the food supply situation and requirements for assistance in the Sudan and to disseminate information in its regular reports, Foodcrops and Shortages and Food Outlook, and the Special Africa Report.

83. Following donors' pledges against the inter-agency appeal, FAO is currently implementing three projects, on urgent provision of technical assistance to evaluate requirements for basic agricultural inputs and monitor their distribution; urgent local purchase of staple grains for use as seeds; and urgent local purchase of staple grains.

World Health Organization

84. Within the context of the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, WHO appealed for US$ 7.9 million for a full year for humanitarian assistance programmes in the health sector. To date response to this appeal totalled $558,000, from two donors, Canada and Sweden. These funds were programmed and obligated within two weeks of their receipt by WHO for use in a malaria control programme and a tuberculosis programme.

85. The bulk of assistance went for the purchase of drugs, insecticides and spraying equipment. The malaria control programme concentrated its assistance to Darfur, central Kordofan, Red Sea Hills, Khartoum and Southern State, while the tuberculosis programme targeted two areas where tuberculosis cases have been on the rise, namely, in Eastern State (Gadarif and Halfa el-Gadida) and the displaced population living around Khartoum.